

Hafa Adai!

'Gym already at max capacity; our apologies to the families' **PAGE 2**
Dance concert aims to raise Mawar relief for Guam, Rota. **PAGE 7**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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DRONE SURVEY

Laquan Hansley, from Currie, North Carolina, launches an RQ-20B Puma drone to survey damage caused by Typhoon Mawar in Guam. A Combined Joint Task Force led by U.S. Army Pacific and Task Force West, or Joint Region Marianas, are the DoD representatives supporting FEMA and the governments of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as they recover from the devastation caused by Typhoon Mawar. The typhoon moved through the area as a Category 4 storm last May 24, bringing hurricane-force winds, heavy rain, and high seas marking the strongest storm to affect the island since Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 JUSTIN WOLPERT

\$5.3M Child Tax Credit refunds out tomorrow

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation will be releasing tomorrow, Friday, the first batch of Child Tax Credit refunds totaling \$5.3 million for 3,000 taxpayers.

"I commend the Department of Finance team for their commitment in processing the Child Tax Credit refunds quickly to distribute these funds and tax credits to families," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in a statement yesterday.

Of the first batch of CTC refunds for tax year 2022, about

1,000 of those taxpayers are for direct deposit.

Taxpayers choosing direct
See \$5.3M on Page 4

FAC drops 3 cents in June

The Fuel Adjustment Charge of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. this month is dropping a bit.

A CUC news release yesterday said that it has been notified by its fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices that will

affect the FAC. As a result, the current FAC rate is reduced by 3 cents (\$0.03581) from \$0.25671 per kWh to \$0.22090 per kWh effective June 1, 2023.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase

See FAC on Page 4

Arbitration hearing on IPI, CCC dispute is complete; no arbitrator decision yet

» **CCC chairman confident CNMI prevails in the arbitration**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The three-day arbitration hearing in Honolulu, Hawaii on a legal dispute between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI)

LLC and the Commonwealth Casino Commission was completed Friday, but arbitrator Thomas J. Brewer has yet to issue a decision, according to CCC board chair Edward C.

See ARBITRATION on Page 4

IN ONGOING CRIMINAL CASE VS TORRES Motion to disqualify Barcinas is overruled

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Judge pro tempore Arthur Barcinas has overruled the Office of the Attorney General's objection to his appointment to preside over the ongoing criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Barcinas' order yesterday overrules the objection



Barcinas



Torres

of special prosecutor James Kingman against Barcinas' appointment to preside over

See MOTION on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

121

INSIDE



BUSINESS

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan donates \$5,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

PAGE 11



ENVIRONMENT

A United Nations committee meets to work on a treaty to end global plastic pollution

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

A third man has been charged in the 2002 shooting death of Run-DMC star Jam Master Jay.

PAGE 15




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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE

JUNE 2	Adult Wellness Check Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 8AM - 11:30 AM
JUNE 8	Pride Clinic In collaboration with Pride Marianas for individuals interested in consultation for hormonal therapy, HIV/STD Testing, resources & referrals. Northern Marianas College , As Terlaje from 5PM - 8PM
JUNE 13 22	Child Wellness Check For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals Tanapag Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30PM San Vicente Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30 PM
JUNE 28	Women's Wellness Check For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals New Kagman Market from 8AM - 11:30 AM

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Local

‘Gym already at max capacity’

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Aguon

The Marianas High School Class of 2023 held its graduation on Tuesday at their gymnasium after a few years of it being out of commission—but with 358 graduates, it was the largest graduating class in MHS principal Jonathan Aguon's tenure, so the gymnasium was already at max capacity by the time the ceremony started.

A crowd of parents, family members, and friends were left outside unable to get into the gymnasium and were held at bay by MHS staff, with backup police officers called for assistance to keep order as the ceremony was taking place. One person at the event said that parents were upset and were wanting to be let in.

In an interview yesterday morning, Aguon said the gymnasium was already at maximum capacity—they had 900 chairs and had one bleacher on each side that held about 300 people for both—and could not allow more people to stand and overflow and block the exits.

The ceremony was also livestreamed via Facebook and those who could not fit inside the gymnasium were directed

to the nearby cafeteria—which had a capacity of 400 people—to watch the ceremony live on a screen.

“I would like to apologize for those who felt frustrated from it and they weren't able to be there in person. But I hope that they do find the time to recognize and celebrate that their child or loved one was able to graduate,” he said.

“We did do our best to maximize the physical capacity of the gym, while keeping it safe. I do know from my own experiences that, in other events that are overly crowded, it's not safe, people are just packed like sardines. So we wanted to make sure that we maximize the seating space in the gym and, in order to be able to comply with safety procedures if we do need to respond to an emergency, there's a safe way to have egress from the venue.”

On why the ceremony was held at the gymnasium and not outdoors like in past years, he said it was due to the time crunch from the recent storm and because the school was

used as a shelter. He also said there were disadvantages to an outdoor ceremony, with not being able to recognize or point out the graduates right away as they are under tents.

Aguon also cited the time crunch when asked why they didn't issue tickets for the graduation. “There was no time to do a ticketing system because on Friday, we spent the whole day preparing the school—we still had flooding from the typhoon, we had to clean because we our cafeteria was used as a shelter. So, within the capacity of my team here, we had to first prioritize the recovery of the campus, the closing and sanitizing of the shelter, and then also prepare for graduation.”

“If we had to do a ticketing system, we would have had to work on the printing, which would have taken time and then have a way for parents to come in and pick up tickets over Memorial Day weekend. Even if we did it that way, people still wouldn't have gotten tickets and people would have still been upset that they did not get tickets. So, that's why we decided that the best thing to do given the time was to make it a first-come, first-serve basis.”

See GYM on Page 4

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Bermudes working on combined academy

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Bermudes

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes looks forward to having another police cycle or academy this year as he believes this will help reduce overtime.

In his testimony last Friday before the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee to go over DPS' proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, Bermudes said he is working to have a combined law enforcement academy so the department and other law enforcement agencies can share the cost.

In response to questions by vice speaker Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), the commissioner said they have several vacancies at DPS, yet the last police cycle was the 26th about two years ago, during which there were 36 cadets, and was one of the largest the DPS had.

A typical police cycle has about 25 cadets because it's considered a manageable size.

Bermudes said a police academy is designed to increase the number of personnel so that they can minimize overtime as an organization.

He disclosed that they are in talks with the Northern Marianas College because he will need officers and that they're looking to have a police academy as early as this summer.

The commissioner said the financial part is a factor so they need to run the academy where it's not just for DPS though. "We have to start breaking down these obstacles. We're

Rota court resumes its regular operations

The CNMI Supreme Court has ordered the resumption of regular business hours at the Rota Centron Hustisia.

In a directive on Tuesday, the CNMI Supreme Court said the Rota Centron Hustisia is now open to the public as of 12:30pm yesterday, May 31, 2023.

The high court issued an order last May 22, 2023, closing Rota Centron Hustisia to the public on May 23 and 24 because Typhoon Condition II had been declared for Rota. Subsequently, in response to Typhoon Mawar, the high court issued the directive ordering the closure of Rota Centron Hustisia until further notice.

Since the issuance of these Orders, electricity and water have been restored to the Rota Centron Hustisia as of May 28, 2023. (PR)

running a basic law enforcement academy," he added.

Bermudes said what they teach about criminal law to a

police officer is the same with a conservation officer and that the only difference is that a conservation officer will not

need traffic law enforcement.

The commissioner said that, based on his talks with other law enforcement agencies, the

interest is there to have a combined law enforcement academy, which happened the last time in the late 90's.

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An and Tabuena lead MHS Class of '23

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of family and friends packed the Marianas High School gymnasium last Tuesday afternoon for the graduation ceremony of school's Class of 2023.

After the auditorium filled up, hundreds more packed the school's cafeteria and many individuals set up their chairs outside the gym in order to greet their loved ones as soon as the convocation was over.

Several of the MHS graduates expressed how grateful they were to be having a full and traditional ceremony, especially after a limited seating at graduations in previous years in the wake of the CO-



ONE AN
Valedictorian



BRIGIT LEN YUMUL TABUENA
Salutatorian

VID-19 pandemic.

Leading their class of over 365 graduates as they turned the tassels was valedictorian One An and salutatorian Brigit Len Yumul Tabuena.

For the awardees, the Governor's Leadership award was given to Zenn Ichiro Enriquez Tomokane, who was also cited for being a senator in the 18th CNMI Youth Congress. The Lt. Governor's Leader-

ship Award went to Mary Grace Pontian Caras. The Saipan Mayor's Citizenship Award went to Mark Edhron Nimes Alvara. The Outstanding Female Graduate award went to Anastasia Danilovna Shamaeva, who also placed fifth in her class. The Principal's Award went to Zhen Yu Dong and the Dolphin Award went to AJ Alik Johnny.

The Top 10 students were An, Tabuena, Amena Zhai Mahmud, Jaehoon Son, Shamaeva, Sydney Lim, Carson Lin, Angel Ren, Katie Eun-bi Choi, and Yiwen "Wendy" Zha.

The event's keynote speaker, Kelly Demapan, encouraged the graduates to continue to persevere and that obstacles they face are just another step-



The Top 10 graduating students of Marianas High School are recognized during the school's graduation ceremony last Tuesday at the MHS gymnasium.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

ARBITRATION

From Page 1

DeLeon Guerrero yesterday.

"We are hopeful and confident that the CNMI prevails in the arbitration," said DeLeon Guerrero during the CCC board's regular monthly meeting in the CCC conference room at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai.

There's no time frame as to when Brewer will issue a decision.

Arbitration is essentially an out-of-court procedure wherein two parties agree on one or more arbitrators to decide on their dispute in order to resolve a disagreement.

IPI, through counsel, raised a *force majeure* defense, among other arguments, in its legal dispute with CCC before the U.S.

District Court for the NMI. *Force majeure* refers to an unforeseeable circumstance that hinders a party from fulfilling its part in a contract.

IPI argued that it could not carry out its financial obligations under the Casino License Agreement as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which negatively impacted their business.

On Aug. 24, 2022, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's request for a preliminary injunction to prohibit CCC from revoking IPI's Saipan exclusive casino license. The judge allowed IPI to pursue its right to arbitration.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Inga

This 1-year-old, female dog is super cuddly and soft.

She is house trained, is super sweet, and gets along great with children, cats, other dogs, and anyone she meets.

Inga has mild heartworm like most dogs and needs to be spayed.

Inga is available for adoption at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido. Hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.



Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS).

For inquiries about veterinary services reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or Whatsapp +1 (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the SMO Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

FAC

From Page 1

fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing provided by

Mobil equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel-related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (PR)

GYM

From Page 2

As for the graduation ceremony itself, Aguon said he feels very grateful that they were able to have it. "Given that we postponed the ceremony because of the typhoon—everybody was preparing in anticipation of a disaster again—so, we're very lucky that we weren't really impacted like

what happened on Rota and Guam. Guam's graduations are postponed indefinitely because of the recovery efforts of the island.

"...That puts things into perspective that we were able to do this for the students—the main people that we serve, that they're able to get a memorable ceremony. The energy in there was electric, so I think that they understand, and they get to go on to their next adventure in life."

MOTION

From Page 1

the misconduct in office case filed by Attorney General Edward Manibusan against Torres. Kingman had sought to have Barcinas disqualified on the ground that the judge was already serving as justice pro tem in a related CNMI Supreme Court case.

"The court overrules the objection on the grounds that the two cases involve two separate legal matters and facts in common are not considered to be disqualifying events. A decision in one of two related cases does not significantly determine or affect the decision in the other case, and parties cannot attack a judge's impartiality because of information and beliefs acquired by the judge while acting in his judicial capacity," said Barcinas.

Specifically, Barcinas is the judge now handing the appellate case *Ralph DLG Torres v. House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*.

Kingman argued that Torres, who is a defendant in the criminal case, is plaintiff-appellant in the appellate case.

"The controversy in question arises from the same investigation that originated the charges in the criminal case. The criminal case here origi-

nated with a referral based on the investigation carried out by defendant-appellee that also gave rise to the case on appeal. Count XIV of the criminal case, contempt, is the issue at heart of the criminal case," Kingman said.

Despite that argument, Barcinas determined that, because the alleged basis for disqualification arises from his status as a judge, the source is not extrajudicial.

"Without extrajudicial influence, judicial rulings alone almost never constitute a valid basis for disqualifications and can only in the rarest circumstances demonstrate the degree of favoritism or antagonism required for disqualification. Therefore, opinions formed by Judge Barcinas on the basis of facts introduced or events occurring in the course of concurrent or prior proceedings do not constitute a basis for disqualification unless the Commonwealth can demonstrate that such opinions would show deep-seated favoritism or antagonism that would make fair judgment impossible," Barcinas said.

In September 2022, the judge pro tem in the case, Guam judge Alberto Tolentino, recused himself from the case due to health reasons.

After the recusal, the CNMI Supreme Court appointed Barcinas, who is also from Guam, to preside over the case.

\$5.3M

From Page 1

deposit will receive their funds tomorrow, Friday, according to the Office of the Governor.

Those opting for checks should allow three to five working days for the U.S. Postal Service to sort and distribute mail.

The Office of the Governor noted that if direct deposit bank information has errors, the refund will be converted to a check.

The Division of Revenue and Taxation will continue to process tax refunds on a bi-weekly basis to allow the week in between to process government payroll and other payables.

Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang thanked

the Finance team for their diligence and hard work in processing the CTC refunds. They asked for everyone to continue to exercise patience as the refund process continues.

The Office of the Governor advised those who have questions about their CTC refunds to contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation Call Center at (670) 664-1040.

Last May 19, Revenue and Taxation disbursed for the tax year 2022 the first batch of refunds for the Earned Income Tax Credits and 2022 individual income tax refunds consisting of returns without any business-related information.

The first batch was composed of 3,682 taxpayers for EITC totaling \$5.3 million and 4,190 for regular rebates totaling \$3 million.



Department of Finance Division of Procurement Services

P.O. Box 10008 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-1500 • Fax: (670) 664-1515



NOTICE OFFICE CLOSURE

This is to inform the general public and vendors that the Department of Finance, **Division of Procurement Services** located at the Horiguchi Building will be closed on **June 1 - 5, 2023** due to relocation to Capitol Hill, DCCA - Arts Council Office.

We will resume normal operations on **June 06, 2023** at the DCCA - Arts Council Office in Capitol Hill Building #12552.

Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

/s/ **Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.**
Acting Director, Procurement Services



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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
06/01/2023

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after June 17, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
WB Estates, Chalan Piao • The “WB Estates, Chalan Piao” project proposes to build one housing unit, consisting of three bedrooms.	Affordable Rental Housing	Chalan Piao, Saipan	Approximately \$250,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com ; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by June 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

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/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

FEMA boots on the ground in Marianas

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Hundreds of personnel from federal agencies and voluntary organizations are in Guam supporting the ongoing response and recovery efforts from Typhoon Mawar. FEMA continues working with local, territorial, federal, nonprofit organizations and private sector partners to get essential services reopened and operational.

Guam residents can register for federal assistance by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov, through the FEMA App, or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362). Residents who use a relay service, such as video relay or captioned telephone service, can give the FEMA operator the number for that service. FEMA is working with local and territorial officials to determine Disaster Recovery Center locations. Once open, survivors can visit these centers to receive one-on-one help with their disaster registration process and emergency assistance.

Following President Joe Biden’s amended Major Disaster Declaration for Guam on Sunday, FEMA has received more than 2,700 registrations for assistance, helping survivors take the first step to jumpstart their recovery.

Nearly 600 FEMA personnel are supporting response and recovery efforts in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with nearly 300 staff in Guam. Additional Disaster Survivors Assistance Teams staff are being deployed to Guam to help survivors register for federal assistance.

After a disaster, people want to help, but it’s important to donate responsibly. When people support voluntary organizations with financial contributions, it helps ensure a steady flow of important services to the people in need. You can find a voluntary organization to support by visiting the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster’s website at NVOAD.org. FEMA is coordinating with its network of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to provide support and humanitarian aid. Feeding and bottled water operations continue as needed and requested by the territory and the commonwealth officials:

The Salvation Army began feeding operations on Monday.

The Red Cross continues assisting with shelter and feeding operations, and are also distributing emergency supplies, including pet food at various distribution centers.


Federal, territorial, Commonwealth and voluntary actions

Survivors who are covered by insurance should file a claim with their insurance company or agent as soon as they can. Next, they should apply for FEMA disaster assistance. Survivors who are uninsured should apply for FEMA disaster assistance now. Assistance may include funding to repair or replace their homes, temporary housing resources, access to low-interest loans or other programs to help them jumpstart their recovery.

The Guam Department of Agriculture has teams conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments with farmers. Farmers who suffered crop loss should document their losses and contact 671-300-7972-73 or email agriculture@doagguam.gov for more information.

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Guam businesses and residents who were affected by Typhoon Mawar. To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, survivors must first register at DisasterAssistance.gov.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-022, Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Dance concert aims to raise Mawar relief for Guam, Rota



The P'Art Corp. is hosting the Typhoon Mawar Relief Fund Dance Performance tomorrow, June 2, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 7:30pm to 9pm. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The P'Art Corp. is inviting the public to support the Typhoon Mawar Relief Fund Dance Performance for Guam and Rota that will be held tomorrow, June 2, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 7:30pm to 9pm. The dance concert will feature performances by Best of Korea, Kim so hee Dance, and Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., among others.

Admissions to the performance will be free, but containers for donations will be available at the entrance to the venue. The audience and community members may contribute donations at their convenience. All donations will be turned over to the governments of Guam and Rota. "The purpose of this dance performance is to dedicate our

support and contribution from Saipan, with our partnering agencies, to our sister islands of Guam and Rota in their times of distress in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar," said a corporation statement yesterday. For further inquiries, contact Jun Ho Park, director of P'Art Corp., at (670) 483-9900 or via e-mail at spn5533@han-mail.net. (PR)

SCC membership meeting on June 7

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Queens Club of the Kensington Hotel Saipan. The meeting, which will feature Josephine Mesta, the owner of Train Smart, as the spotlight presenter, and Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler as a guest speaker, promises to be an invaluable opportunity for businesses and professionals to stay informed and con-

connected, according to an SCC news release yesterday. "...Mesta...will enlighten attendees on the significance of Work-Based Learning experiences and how the business community can contribute to this important aspect. ... Staffler will provide attendees with incredible updates on the department's ongoing efforts toward system realignment and interagency collaboration," the SCC news release added.



Mesta Staffler

The event will commence with lunch served at 11:30 am,

and gain insights into the latest Chamber happenings." The luncheon fee for SCC members is \$25, while future members can attend for \$35. The SCC is now accepting reservations. To reserve your spot or obtain further information, contact the SCC office at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipan-chamber.org. (SCC)

followed by the meeting beginning promptly at noon. "We encourage all Chamber members and future members to join us at this highly anticipated event," said SCC executive director Kimm Camacho. "It is an excellent opportunity to stay informed with our committee updates



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-012	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	June 1, 2023	June 16, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

06/01/2023

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after June 17, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Canaan-As Lito Housing • The "Canaan-As Lito Housing" project proposes to build thirty (30) housing units: two (2) units with one bedroom, six (6) units with two bedrooms, fourteen (14) units with three bedrooms, and eight (8) units with four bedrooms.	Affordable Rental Housing	As Lito, Saipan	Approximately \$6,060,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by June 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

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/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Major questions on minors: Research and regulation needed on child social media use

A new report from U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy outlines how often compulsive social media use by children and teens leads to a variety of negative health outcomes, including declining mental health, lack of sleep, exposure to harassment and other problems. As platforms like Instagram and TikTok become ubiquitous with 95% of kids using some app, the report calls on parents, children, tech companies and, crucially, policymakers to take action.

There is broad agreement on the need for federal regulation, with even industry groups and officials pushing for clear and generally applicable guardrails as a preferable alternative to patchy, 50 different kinds of state-level legislation or confusing or too-targeted policies that are attempting to wrangle specific companies.

But who should write these controls, and to what end? Lawmakers are woefully unprepared to regulate technologies that they can hardly understand and whose long-term repercussions they are unequipped to foresee and preempt (just look at the often embarrassing congressional hearings featuring policymakers stumbling around basic concepts). Industry has an alluring alternative: let people with deep expertise write the laws. Where might one find these people? Industry itself, and its lobbyists, of course. They would like that.

Neither of these is a particularly good solution, which is why policymakers should work on actually building out the expertise to constrain the tech without subverting it completely, not just for social media but all technologies of concern, including AI. That means paying attention to the academics and journalists that are documenting harms and leaning not just on lobbyists but researchers who have no entanglements with the companies being regulated.

Research like that done by Murthy's staff is a crucial piece of that puzzle, and more resources should be dedicated to impartially studying the dimensions of the problems caused by tech so that lawmakers aren't teetering in the dark. There may, as the report itself notes, be some concrete benefits to social media use by kids, but the documented harms are also too far-reaching, long-acting and widespread to allow the industry to police itself.

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If TikTok, SnapChat aren't harming kids they should prove it

The US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has issued a warning that social media could be harming our kids. His social media advisory is a welcome road map for what everyone—policymakers, tech companies, parents, kids and researchers—should be doing to better understand the impact of platforms like TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat on the developing brains of adolescents.

There are yawning gaps in our knowledge of social media's effects at this critical point in development. Many of Murthy's recommendations centered on filling those gaps. And while Murthy also offers advice for parents, educators and even kids themselves, the most urgent recommendations in the report are ones that companies need to take the lead on.

He'd like to see companies adding scientific advisory boards to guide safe product design, reacting swiftly if evidence of harm emerges, and doing more to enforce age minimums. Policymakers, who have been fumbling to put the social media genie back in the bottle via unconstitutional bans, should be pursuing these kinds of realistic recommendations around the design and use of these platforms.

One recommendation that particularly resonated was Murthy's call for transparency. He wants for technology companies to "share data relevant to the health impact of their platforms with independent researchers and the public in a manner that is timely, sufficiently details, and protects privacy." Lawmakers should ensure that they do.

As Mitch Prinstein, a psychologist and neuroscientist who studies adolescents' social interactions at the University of North Carolina, recently pointed out to me, "Companies are assertively hiring psychological scientists from our own programs and labs, but we don't know what they're doing and what information they have."

Given the massive amount of data collected from companies and their intense focus on the influence of their algorithms, it wouldn't be surprising if they already were experimenting with and studying how social media is being used and is affecting specific groups of kids. Academic researchers like Prinstein would get so much out of any data they are collecting. For example, are they asking what happens when kids see more of certain kinds of posts or see posts in a different order? Are they experimenting with what happens when kids see "likes" more or less often? All of that could tell us a lot about kids' reactions to social media and overall well-being when using it, Prinstein says.

Critics might see Murthy's warning as merely stirring up moral panic over new technology—the latest chapter in a long history of panicking over how kids' brains and behavior will be affected by

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.



shifting cultural norms. Consider, for example, earlier warnings about violence on TV or in video games.

More than once when contemplating my concerns over social media and kids, I've paused to ask myself if I'm having a Tipper Gore moment. She famously stoked hysteria over the dangers of exposing kids to explicit music or movies (a campaign kicked off after she bought her 11-year-old daughter Prince's Purple Rain, which this opinion writer will note is one of the best albums ever made and has been played many times for her own 11-year-old daughter).

But unlike a single song or scene in a movie, social media permeates a teen's day. Nearly every teenager in the US—95%—is on social media, and the report notes that a third of teenagers report using it "almost constantly." Meanwhile, some 40% of kids between the ages of 8 and 12 are users. And even the ones that aren't active participants are surely passive ones—parents like me who have held the line on social media and phones know that even when their child doesn't have their own TikTok account, they're certainly seeing it on the playground or after school.

That constant barrage of content might include being exposed to material that some parents might find problematic—like videos that glamorize suicide or eating disorders. And perhaps more profoundly, it is also potentially changing the way they connect with other humans. The surgeon general's report notes that one of the critical unanswered questions is how interacting online versus in person affects kids' mental health, and in particular, their feelings of connectedness or isolation.

In the end, the advisory is raising a red flag not about what we know to be dangerous, but about all that we don't know—and as a society, have a right to know—about social media's effect on adolescent development. It's a call for good data. What's the harm in that?

Without it, parents and legislators will be left wondering why social media companies, if confident their products aren't harmful, wouldn't simply share the proof.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

These ‘experts’ sold the US on a disastrous COVID plan, and never paid a professional price

They’ve held credentials from some of the world’s most elite universities—Harvard, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Oxford. They’ve been welcomed into the highest government policy councils. They became fixtures on television news shows and were quoted incessantly by some of the nation’s leading newspapers.

They’re a cadre of academics and scientists who pushed a discredited solution to the COVID pandemic, shunning masks, school closings, even vaccines, all in the name of reaching the elusive goal of “herd immunity,” resulting in what may have been hundreds of thousands of unnecessary American deaths.

That’s the contention of “We Want Them Infected,” a painstakingly documented new book by Jonathan Howard, a neurologist at New York University and a veteran debunker of the pseudoscience contaminating our efforts to fight the pandemic.

Howard takes his title from Paul Alexander, an epidemiologist in the Health and Human Services Department during the Trump administration.

In July 2020, Alexander offered his view of how to exploit the relative risks of COVID to discrete populations to reach herd immunity. The idea was that so many people would eventually become naturally infected with the virus, and therefore immune, from further infection that the virus would be unable to spread further.

“Infants, kids, teens, young people, young adults, middle aged with no conditions etc. have zero to little risk,” he told top HHS officials. “So we use them to develop herd ... we want them infected.”

Alexander’s proposal was essentially a screed against lockdowns. That suited the Trump White House, which was searching for ways around the economic dislocations caused by the virus. But he was wrong about the toll of sickness and death that would result, allowing the virus to rage among these ostensibly low-risk groups, and wrong about the prospects of reaching herd immunity naturally.

“We Want Them Infected” may be the most appalling and infuriating book you’ll read about America’s response to the pandemic. It’s also essential reading.

The book is populated by quacks, mountebanks and charlatans—and not a few scholars with distinguished academic records—many of whom appear to have been seduced by the embrace of the right-wing echo chamber into promoting unproven and disproved policies.

“It’s unbelievable that while doctors like myself were working to treat sick COVID patients, begging people to stay at home and be safe,” Howard told me, “there was another group of doctors working at cross-currents to us—prominent doctors wanting to purposely infect unvaccinated young people with the promise that herd immunity would arrive in a couple of months.”

They consistently minimized the gravity of the pandemic, but rarely if ever acknowledged that their optimistic forecasts of illness and deaths were consistently proven wrong.

There are a number of problems with the herd immunity theory. One is that immunity from COVID infection tends to wane over time rather than become permanent. Also, infection with one variant of the virus doesn’t necessarily confer immunity from other variants, of which there have been many.

Another problem is that COVID can be a devastating disease for victims of any age. Allowing anyone to become infected can expose them to serious health problems.

Moreover, the prospect that COVID could be defeated by the natural expansion of herd immunity persuaded many people not to bother with proven countermeasures, including social distancing, masking, or vaccination.

Today, more than three years after COVID first appeared, the U.S. still has not achieved herd immunity although it is nearing the goal, in the view of Robert Wachter, chair of the department of medicine at UC San Francisco. The disease’s trajectory has been cataclysmic—the U.S. death toll stands at 1.13 million, hundreds of children have died, and an estimated 245,000 children have lost one or both parents to COVID. The U.S. leads the world in COVID deaths; its death rate of 3,478 per million population is worse than that of Britain,

Spain, France, the Nordic countries, Canada and Israel.

Some herd immunity advocates offered their blithe forecasts in a misguided, if not dishonest, attempt to provide comfort to the American public. Scott Atlas, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, urged HHS officials in March 2020 to advocate against lockdowns on grounds they were “inciting irrational fear” of the virus, which he estimated would cause about 10,000 deaths. “The panic needs to be stopped,” Atlas wrote.

Atlas soon became a top advisor to Trump, promoting the herd immunity theory in the White House despite the objections of more experienced advisors such as Dr. Deborah Birx.

Howard is especially disturbed at how politicizing the pandemic has allowed fringe ideas to infiltrate public health policies.

“In 2019 you would have been considered a quack if you suggested that the best way to get rid of a virus is to spread the virus,” he says. “But that became mainstream and influenced politicians at the highest levels.”

In his book, Howard reserves his deepest scorn for the promoters of the “Great Barrington Declaration,” a manifesto for herd immunity published in October 2020 and signed initially by epidemiologists Jay Bhattacharya of Stanford; Martin Kulldorff, then of Harvard; and Sunetra Gupta of Oxford. (Thousands of other academics and scientists would later add their signatures).

The core of the declaration was opposition to lockdowns. Its solution was what its drafters called “focused protection,” which meant allowing “those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk”—chiefly seniors.

Older people living at home, the declaration said, should be kept apart from other family members except by meeting them outside, and “should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home.”

Focused protection, the promoters wrote, would allow society to achieve herd immunity and return to normalcy in three to six months.

As Howard documents, the declaration was little more than a libertarian fantasy. That may not have been surprising, because one of its organizers was an arch-libertarian named Jeffrey Tucker.

For a taste of Tucker’s worldview, consider a 2016 article entitled “Let the kids work.” There he ridiculed the Washington Post for publishing a photo gallery of child laborers from 100 years ago, including miners and sweatshop workers as young as 10.

Tucker’s response was that those children were “working in the adult world, surrounded by cool bustling things and new technology. They are on the streets, in the factories, in the mines, with adults and with peers, learning and doing. They are being valued for what they do, which is to say being valued as people.... Whatever else you want to say about this, it’s an exciting life.”

A better life, at least, than “pushed by compulsion into government holding tanks for a full decade”—that is, going to school.

The declaration’s promoters, Howard writes, never specified how to achieve their goals. Delivering food and supplies to millions of housebound seniors? In a Hoover Institution interview, Bhattacharya said, “We could have offered free DoorDash to older people.”

As Howard observes, Bhattacharya was remarkably sanguine about “creating a program overnight to deliver fresh food to tens of millions of seniors for months on end throughout the entire country.”

Similar hand-waving addressed the problems of multigenerational households, in which millions of vulnerable elders live. Older family members, the declaration authors wrote, “might temporarily be able to live with an older friend or sibling, with whom they can self-isolate together during the height of community transmission. As a last resort, empty hotel rooms could be used for temporary housing.”

By **MICHAEL HILTZIK**
Los Angeles Times



Of course, hermetically sealing off tens of millions of “nonvulnerable” people from tens of millions of vulnerable people in a few weeks would be “the single greatest logistical challenge humanity had ever undertaken,” Howard observes. “Nowhere in the world used focused protection to achieve herd immunity in three to six months, as the Great Barrington Declaration promised.”

What the declaration really promoted was complacency. Its drafters, Howard says, were “people with no real-world responsibility for much of anything who made impossible things sound very easy. The task of actually getting food into the houses of elderly people was left up to public health authorities who were understaffed, overwhelmed and underfunded.”

What may be the most inexcusable element of the herd immunity movement was its implication that children could be used as shields for the rest of the population. Its advocates counseled against vaccinating young children on the grounds that their susceptibility to the virus was minimal or even nonexistent, so they could safely acquire immunity naturally—and perhaps, as Vinay Prasad of UC San Francisco implied, provide an immunity boost to adults in their families.

Yet although children tended to suffer less from symptoms when they were infected, they were anything but immune. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1,600 American children under the age of 18 have died from COVID during the pandemic.

In any case, death is not the only serious outcome from COVID. The CDC says more than 14,000 children were hospitalized for COVID during the pandemic. An untold number of children may suffer from long COVID or other lifelong manifestations of the disease. For doctors to counsel deliberately exposing children to COVID when a vaccine is available, especially if the purpose is to protect adults, is “a moral abomination,” Howard says. He’s right.

In a world guided by science, the promoters of an unsuccessful herd immunity theory would long ago have lost their credibility and their public soapboxes.

The opposite has happened. Bhattacharya and Kulldorff still have their platforms (Kulldorff is now associated with the right-wing Hillsdale College). Both were appointed in December by Florida’s anti-vaccine governor, Ron DeSantis, to a “Public Health Integrity Committee” charged with questioning federal public health policies.

Scott Atlas, meanwhile, was tapped to deliver the commencement address at New College of Florida, a once-renowned liberal arts institution that DeSantis has turned into a haven for right-wing pedagogy. He was greeted with boos from the audience of graduating seniors, however, indicating that the youth of America perhaps can’t be gulled as easily as their parents.

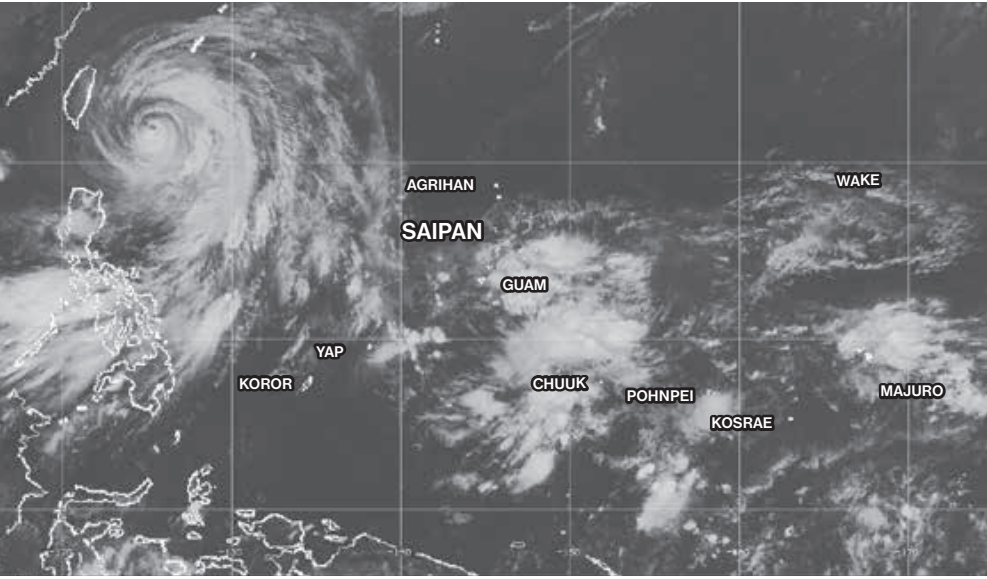
At this moment, anti-science ideology on the right appears to be in the ascendance. Agitation against the COVID vaccine is metastasizing into an opposition movement against all childhood vaccinations, a trend that threatens to produce a surge in other vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and polio.

“The anti-vaccine movement has spotted an opportunity to sow doubt,” Howard told me. “Getting rid of all school vaccine mandates has always been the Holy Grail for them.”

Howard’s book is a warning. We may be on the verge of a public health disaster, because the promoters of a failed theory that COVID could be fought through “natural immunity” without vaccines have been able to wrap themselves in the mantle of truth-tellers. But they’re not.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy		Isolated showers. Partly sunny	
85°	80°	84°	80°	85°	78°	85°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 5:59 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and weather stations indicate moderate to heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms over much of the Marianas and adjacent coastal waters and slowly drifting north, which will continue into Thursday. Drier air aloft and building trades will decrease showers Friday into Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:09 AM	3:58 PM
Friday	-	3:48 AM	4:53 PM
Saturday	-	4:33 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	-	5:24 AM	6:57 PM
Monday	-	6:21 AM	8:03 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	65° / 59°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 64°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°	
London	Mostly Sunny	69° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	68° / 60°	
Manila	Thunderstorms/Wind	91° / 82°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°	
Osaka	Showers	81° / 70°	
Paris	Sunny	82° / 51°	
Busan	Rain	69° / 66°	
Rome	Light Rain	78° / 60°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 67°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	79° / 61°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:50 AM	High Tide	2.00	
11:53 AM	Low Tide	0.32	
6:34 PM	High Tide	1.79	
11:42 PM	Low Tide	1.18	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

McDonald's donates \$5K to Ronald McDonald House Charities Hawaii

On Dec. 3, 2022, McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, in partnership with the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, held the 2nd Annual McDonald's of Guam and Saipan Golf Classic and raised over \$30,000.

The Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation has donated to Make-A-Wish in Guam, Salvation Army and Karidat on Saipan. Recently, vice president Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. traveled to Oahu, Hawaii to present a donation of \$5,000 to Ronald McDonald House Charities in Hawaii.

Proceeds help RMHC Hawaii provide a home-away-from-home and essential services for families throughout the Pacific with children getting medical treatment on Oahu. The House helps families stay together in a safe and healing place, providing them with care and hope as they look ahead towards brighter days. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan supports year-round with donation canisters located at most McDonald's restaurants at the drive-thru and front counter, along with asking customers to "round-up" on their orders as a donation to RMHC. McDonald's also donates \$1 cent from every Happy Meal sold.

"We are happy to help RMHC provide a home away from home for families traveling to Hawaii who are seeking medical treatment for their seriously ill child. Medical travel can be stressful as it is and we believe this little bit of comfort will go a long way especially in alleviating large expenses for these families. RMHC relieves some of the burden from families going through this hard time, by offering the opportunity to spend quality time together in the comfort of the RMHC house," said Ayuyu.

RMHC programs help alleviate some financial burdens for families with sick children. It helps families save over \$504 million in hotel and meal expenses. The generosity of time, as well as funds and in-kind services provided by the entire McDonald's community, have helped RMHC positively impact millions of children and their families since 1974. Their support and community relations have also helped us expand our core programs and services throughout the world. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's of Guam and Saipan owner/operator, donates \$5,000 from proceeds of the 2nd Annual McDonald's of Guam and Saipan Golf Classic to Jerri Chong, Ronald McDonald House Charities Hawaii president.

Ukraine's economy shows 'resilience' from Russian attacks, IMF says as it backs aid

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Ukraine's economy is showing "remarkable resilience" following Russian attacks on its electricity infrastructure, officials from the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday as they signed off on an initial loan of \$900 million and raised their estimate for the country's economic growth.

The outlook improved to 1% to 3% growth this year from minus 3% to plus 1% in an earlier assessment in March, said Gavin Gray, the IMF's mission chief to Ukraine.

Inflation is coming down and the hryvna currency is stable despite the massive disruption of the war, Gray said. But he warned that the economic outlook faces "exceptionally high risks."

"Through the winter, Ukraine faced devastating attacks on its critical infrastruc-

ture, and missile strikes continue countrywide," Gray said in an online news conference. "Despite this, the Ukrainian economy has shown remarkable resilience—economic activity in the first quarter rebounded strongly, as the energy system rapidly recovered from attacks on critical infrastructure, foreign exchange markets stabilized, and inflation started to decline decisively."

The recovery was expected to strengthen "as the economy progressively adapts to war conditions," he said.

Ukraine's economic output shrank by about 30% in 2022 after Russia invaded in February of that year.


The IMF said Ukrainian officials had met requirements for reforming economic policies under a first review of what is to be a \$15.6 billion loan package over four years.

The changes include drafting tax legislation aimed at improving revenue collection and assuring donors that are keeping the country's state finances afloat that Ukraine will be able to pay its share of financial burdens.

Release of a first, \$900 million installment of assistance was agreed at staff level but still requires approval of the IMF's executive board.

The positive review was in sharp contrast to Ukraine's pre-war IMF programs, which were marked by missed deadlines and a lack of progress in reforming the economy and resisting the domination of politically connected business figures known as oligarchs.

Ukrainian officials have been at pains to show they are cracking down on corruption as they seek membership in the European Union.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 06/01/2023

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after June 17, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Dandan Rentals	Affordable Rental Housing	Dandan, Saipan	Approximately \$700,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used

• The "Dandan Rentals" project proposes to build a two-story apartment consisting of four units with three bedrooms in each unit.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhc.gov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. All comments received by June 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact e U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

Nation

Debt limit agreement heads to vote in full House

» While McCarthy scrambles for GOP approval

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under fire from conservatives, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy worked furiously Tuesday to sell fellow Republicans on the debt ceiling and budget deal he negotiated with President Joe Biden and win approval in time to avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default.

Meeting behind closed doors over pizza for more than two hours at the Capitol, McCarthy walked Republicans through the details, fielded questions and encouraged them not to lose sight of the bill's budget savings, even though they are far less than many conservatives wanted.

"We're going to pass the bill," McCarthy said as he exited the session.

The hard-fought measure is now headed to a House vote Wednesday. Quick approval by both the House and Senate would ensure government checks will continue to go out to Social Security recipients, veterans and others, and prevent financial upheaval worldwide by allowing Treasury to keep paying U.S. debts.

Overall the 99-page package restricts spending for the next two years, lifts the debt limit and includes policy changes such as new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and approval of an Appalachian energy pipeline that many Democrats oppose. The House Rules Committee on Tuesday voted 7-6, with two Republicans opposed, to advance the measure to the floor, signaling the tough vote still ahead.

With few lawmakers expected to be fully satisfied,



Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., left, wearing a pin simulating the increasing U.S. National Debt, joined at right by Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., both members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, whispers to Norman as the House Rules Committee meets to prepare the debt limit bill, The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, for a vote on the floor, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at the Capitol in Washington.

relates to an agreement that they themselves negotiated," Jeffries said. "Democrats will make sure that the country does not default."

McCarthy could expect no help from the far right.

"This deal fails, fails completely, and that's why these members and others will be absolutely opposed to the deal," Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, said, flanked by others outside the Capitol. "We will do everything in our power to stop it."

Ominously, the conservatives warned of potentially trying to oust McCarthy over the compromise.

"There's going to be a reckoning," said Rep. Chip Roy of Texas.

Biden and McCarthy are counting on pulling majority support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, to prevent a federal default. Some 218 votes are needed for passage in the 435-member House.

Leaders of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus lambasted the compromise as falling well short of the spending cuts they demand, and they vowed to try to halt passage by Congress. A much larger conservative faction, the Republican Study Committee, declined to take a position. Even rank-and-file centrist conservatives were not sure, leaving McCarthy desperately hunting for votes.

Biden was speaking directly to lawmakers, making more than 100 one-on-one

calls, the White House said. Top administration officials are heading to Capitol Hill to brief Democrats privately ahead of Wednesday's planned vote.

Late in the day, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the spending restrictions in the package would reduce deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the decade, a top goal for the Republicans trying to curb the debt load.

But in a surprise that could further erode Republican support, the GOP's drive to impose work requirements on older Americans receiving food stamps ends up boosting spending by \$2.1 billion over the time period. That's because the final deal exempted veterans and homeless people, expanding the food stamp rolls by some 78,000 people

monthly, the CBO said.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said it was up to McCarthy to turn out votes from some two-thirds of the Republican majority, a high bar the speaker may not

be able to reach. Still, Jeffries said the Democrats would do their part to avoid failure.

"It is my expectation that House Republicans would keep their promise and deliver at least 150 votes as it

ACROSS THE NATION

Holmes enters TX prison to begin 11-year sentence

BRYAN, Texas (AP)—Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes entered a Texas prison Tuesday where she could spend the next 11 years for overseeing a blood-testing hoax that became a parable about greed and hubris in Silicon Valley. Holmes, 39, could be seen from outside the prison's gates walking into the federal women's prison camp located in Bryan, Texas, wearing jeans, a brown sweater and smiling as she spoke with two prison employees accompanying her. The minimum-security facility—where the federal judge who sentenced Holmes in November recommended she be incarcerated—is about 95 miles (150 kilometers) northwest of Houston, where she grew up aspiring to become a technology visionary along the lines of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. As she begins her sentence, Holmes is leaving behind two young children—a son born in July 2021 a few weeks before the start of her trial and a 3-month old daughter who was conceived after a jury convicted her on four felony counts of fraud and conspiracy in January 2022.

Manson follower Van Houten should be paroled, CA appeals court rules

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court said Tuesday that Leslie Van Houten, who participated in two killings at the direction of cult leader Charles Manson in 1969, should be released from prison on parole. The appellate court's ruling reverses an earlier decision by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who rejected parole for Van Houten in 2020. She has been recommended for parole five times since 2016. All of those recommendations were rejected by either Newsom or former Gov. Jerry Brown. Newsom could request that California Attorney General Rob Bonta petition the state Supreme

Court to stop her release. Bonta's office referred questions to Newsom's office, which didn't respond to queries about possible next steps. Van Houten, now in her 70s, is serving a life sentence for helping Manson and other followers kill Leno LaBianca, a grocer in Los Angeles, and his wife, Rosemary. Newsom has said that Van Houten still poses a danger to society. In rejecting her parole, he said she offered an inconsistent and inadequate explanation for her involvement with Manson at the time of the killings. The Second District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles ruled 2-1 to reverse Newsom's decision, writing there is "no evidence to support the Governor's conclusions" about Van Houten's fitness for parole.

Search on for 3 gunmen who wounded 9 at crowded beach on Memorial Day

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—Police launched a search Tuesday for three suspects they believe to be the gunmen who opened fire along a crowded Florida beachside promenade on Memorial Day, wounding a 1-year-old and eight others while sending people frantically running for cover. Hollywood police sought the public's help in identifying the gunmen, who ran from the scene during the chaos of hundreds of people fleeing for their lives and diving for cover as shots hit bystanders. Two people involved in the altercation that led to the shooting—Morgan Deslouches and Keshawn Stewart, both 18—have been arrested on firearms charges, police said. Five handguns have been recovered, with one of them reported stolen in the Miami area and another in Texas, they said. Police and witnesses said the shooting began as a group of people fought in front of a busy stretch of shops on the Hollywood Oceanfront Boardwalk about 7 p.m. Monday.

CDC: Sick workers tied to 40% of resto food poisoning outbreaks

Food workers who showed up while sick or contagious were linked to about 40% of restaurant food poisoning outbreaks with a known cause between 2017 and 2019, federal health officials said Tuesday.

Norovirus and salmonella, germs that can cause severe illness, were the most common cause of 800 outbreaks, which encompassed 875 restaurants and were reported by 25 state and local health departments.

Investigators with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called for better enforcement of "comprehensive food safety policies," which emphasize basic measures like hand washing and

keep sick workers off the job.

Although 85% of restaurants said they had policies restricting staff from working while sick, only about 16% of the policies were detailed enough to require workers to notify managers and to stay home if they had any of the five key symptoms—including vomiting, diarrhea, and sore throat with fever.

About 44% of managers told the CDC their restaurants provided paid sick leave to workers. That's a problem, according to Mitzi Baum, the chief executive of STOP Foodborne Illness, a nonprofit advocacy group.

She said it means workers

are forced to choose between earning money or showing up sick—or there's social pressure not to leave fellow employees short-staffed.

"If there's a positive food safety culture, you're not penalized for illness," Baum said.

It can be hard for consumers to know when sick workers might be on the job, she said, but there are some signs to look for: "Is your server sniffing? Are they sneezing? How are they handling the utensils?"

About 48 million people a year in the U.S. are sickened by foodborne illness, including 128,000 who are hospitalized and 3,000 who die, according to the CDC. (AP)

Asia

Mawar lashes eastern Taiwan, northern PH

YILAN, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Mawar lashed Taiwan's eastern coast with wind, rain and large waves Tuesday but largely skirted the island after giving a glancing blow to the northern Philippines. The storm was moving slowly toward southern Japan.

With waves crashing on the shoreline, residents of the Taiwanese fishing town of Yilan secured boats and homes against the stormy conditions.

"I will not worry. The typhoon won't make landfall now. The typhoon will move northward from the sea in the east of Taiwan. Its strength has also weakened. And there is no wind and waves in the fishing port at present. I don't think it will affect us," said Wang Jian-chi, a fishing boat owner.

The coast guard said precautions were being taken, just in case.

"We have issued a high surf warning. The wind and wave are very strong. We hope that beachgoers won't come near the beach and embankment at this moment. We will also send coast guard personnel to patrol the port to warn beachgoers,"

said coast guard officer Wang Hsing-chieh as he patrolled the port with his team.

Although the slow-moving typhoon has lost some of its ferocity since smashing into Guam last week, forecasters in the Philippines said Mawar remained dangerous with maximum sustained winds of 155 kph (96 mph) and gusts of up to 190 kph (118 mph).

People in the Batanes province of the Philippines prepared for bad conditions, but were largely spared.

"I'm on the roof, but I'm not being blown away by the wind," Juliet Cataluna, a Batanes provincial official in the coastal town of Ivana, told The Associated Press by cellphone. "I wish we'll really be spared from damages—our livelihood, our agricultural produce and our houses."

After seeing earlier forecasts that Mawar would be stronger, townspeople in Ivana placed sandbags on their tin roofs and covered glass windows with wooden boards. Cataluna added that she wrapped her avocados with sack cloth so they would not be blown off trees.

N. Korea spy satellite launch fails as rocket falls into sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's attempt to put the country's first spy satellite into space failed Wednesday in a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to boost his military capabilities as tensions with the United States and South Korea rise.

After an unusually quick admission of failure, North Korea vowed to conduct a second launch after learning what went wrong with its rocket liftoff. It suggests Kim remains determined to expand his weapons arsenal and apply more pressure on Washington and Seoul while diplomacy is stalled.

South Korea and Japan briefly urged residents to take shelter after the launch.

The South Korean military said it was salvaging an object presumed to be part of the crashed North Korean rocket in waters 200 kilometers (124 miles) west of the southwestern island of Eocheongdo. Later, the Defense Ministry released photos of a white, metal cylinder it described as a suspected rocket part.

A satellite launch by North Korea is a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions

that ban the country from conducting any launch based on ballistic technology. Observers say North Korea's previous satellite launches helped improve its long-range missile technology, though the latest launch likely was more focused on deploying a spy satellite. North Korea has already shown it may have the ability to strike all of the U.S. mainland after years of intercontinental ballistic missile tests, though outside experts say the North has yet to acquire functioning nuclear missiles.

The newly developed Chollima-1 rocket, which was carrying the Malligyong-1 satellite, was launched at 6:37 a.m. at the North's Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in the northwest. The rocket crashed off the Korean Peninsula's western coast after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

It said the country's space agency will investigate defects revealed in the launch, take urgent measures to overcome them and conduct the second launch as soon as possible through various part tests.

World

New US aid package for Ukraine total about \$300M

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. military aid package for Ukraine that is expected to be announced this week will total up to \$300 million and will include additional munitions for drones, U.S. officials said Tuesday. The drone ammunition comes after new attacks by unmanned aircraft targeted Moscow.

There has been no suggestion that U.S.-made drones or munitions were used in the recent attacks on Moscow, and U.S. officials have repeatedly said that Ukraine has agreed not to use any American-provided weapons for attacks on Russian soil. The Kremlin



PALLET Pallets of 155 mm shells ultimately bound for Ukraine are loaded by the 436th Aerial Port Squadron, April 29, 2022, at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

tens of thousands of people. Ukraine is also showing signs that its long-awaited spring counteroffensive may already be underway.

The Russian Defense Ministry said five drones were shot down in Moscow and the systems of three others were jammed, causing them to veer off course. President Vladimir Putin called it a "terrorist" act by Kyiv.

blamed Kyiv for Tuesday's attack, but Ukrainian officials had no direct comment.

But the new aid package comes at a tense moment in the war. The latest drone attack on Moscow follows Russia's seizure of the eastern Ukrainian city Bakhmut after a nine-month battle that killed

NATO to send 700 more troops to Kosovo to help quell violent protests

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—NATO will send 700 more troops to northern Kosovo to help quell violent protests after clashes with ethnic Serbs there left 30 international soldiers wounded, the alliance announced Tuesday.

The latest violence in the region has stirred fear of a renewal of the 1998-99 conflict in Kosovo that claimed more than 10,000 lives, left more than 1 million people homeless and resulted in a NATO peacekeeping mission that has lasted nearly a quarter of a century.

The clashes grew out of a confrontation that unfolded last week after ethnic Albanian officials elected

in votes overwhelmingly boycotted by Serbs entered municipal buildings to take office. When Serbs tried to block them, Kosovo police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd.

More violence followed on Monday when Serbs clashed with police and NATO peacekeepers.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said an additional reserve battalion would be put on high readiness in case additional troops are needed.

"These are prudent steps," said Stoltenberg, who made the announcement in Oslo after talks with the Norwegian prime minister.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Alejandra Mulemar Iglecias Blas

Lovingly known as "Tan Anda"

Sunrise: February 24, 1932 – Sunset: May 27, 2023

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband:	+Domingo Matagolai Blas
Father:	+Anselmo Iglecias
Mother:	+Maria Mulemar
Father-In-Law:	+Jose Torres Blas
Mother-In-Law:	+Maria Cruz Matagolai
Brothers/Sister-In-Law:	+Jose M./ +Antonia Roberto Iglecias
	+Juan M./ +Maria Manibusan Iglecias
	+Cecilia Iglecias Taisakan
	+Theodora I. / +Jesus Lisua
	+Carmen Blas Pangelinan/ +Jose B. Pangelinan
	+Jose I. Blas, +Antonio I. Blas
Sons:	+Maria B. Camacho, +Martha I. Blas, +Frances I. Blas
Daughters:	+Annette Tricia Iglecias Blas
Reared Daughter:	+John Jr. B. Camacho, +Raymond B. Camacho, +Bernard B. Camacho,
Grandsons:	+Vincent B. Camacho, +Oscar B. Ayuyu
	+Jaylyn Blas, +Joy Abbygail Blas, +Joyce B. Ayuyu, +Ashley Nicole B. Roberto
Granddaughters:	+Sophia Joy R. Manalo
Great Grandchild:	

She will be forever remembered and missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

+Maria B./ Juan Camacho and Family	+Martha I. Blas/ Oscar Ayuyu & Family
+Jose I./ Ana T. Blas and Family	+Edward I./ +Agnes M. Blas and Family
+Hermenia B./ +George Cruz and Family	+Genet I./ Ronaldo Jugo and Sons
+Agnes B./ +Ricardo A. Castillo and Family	+Linda B./ Luis Guanzon and Family
+Antonio I./ +Christina M. Blas and Family	+Jeffrey Hocog and Children
+Juan I./ Teresita Blas and Family	+Joshua Taisague/ Claire Pocaigue and Family
+Bernadita I. Blas	+Catherine I. Blas and Family
+Julita B./ Marcelino Roberto and Family	

She is also survived and will be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered by Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am. Nightly Rosary is being prayed at 7:30 pm at her family residence in Chalan Kanoa District 4. On Sunday, June 4th, her remains will leave CHCC Morgue at 3 pm and will be escorted down to her residence at District 4 in Chalan Kanoa for Bela/ Wake. On Monday, June 5th at 9:45 am her remains will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church. Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 am, followed by burial at Ck Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay.

The Family

Environment

UN talks on a treaty to end **global plastic pollution** open in Paris



AP

A man walks on a mountain of plastic bottles as he carries a sack of them to be sold for recycling after weighing them at the dump in the Dandora slum of Nairobi, Kenya on Dec. 5, 2018.

PARIS (AP)—A United Nations committee met in Paris Monday to work on what is intended to be a landmark treaty to bring an end to global plastic pollution, but there is little agreement yet on what the outcome should be.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Plastics is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. This is the second of five meetings due to take place to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.

At the first meeting, held six months ago in Uruguay, some countries pressed for global mandates, some for national solutions and others for both.

Because it's an extremely short timeline for treaty negotiations, experts say that in this second session it's critical that decisions are made about the objectives and scope of the text — such as what kind of plastics it will focus on. But that is easier said than done. Over 2,000 participants, including governments and observers, from nearly 200 countries have descended on the meeting hosted at the Paris-based U.N. cultural agency, UNESCO.

One fundamental issue being considered Monday is the system of voting on decisions for each nation, which has already produced lively debate and delays in



AP

A child sits inside a canoe with empty plastic bottles he collected to sell for recycling in the floating slum of Makoko in Lagos, Nigeria, Nov. 8, 2022.

the plenary sessions that are due to end Friday.

Humanity produces more than 430 million tons of plastic annually, two-thirds of which are short-lived products that soon become waste, filling the ocean and, often, working their way into the human food chain, the United Nations Environment Program said in April. Plastic waste produced globally is set to almost triple by 2060, with about half ending up in landfill and under a fifth recycled, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The treaty could focus on human health and the envi-

ronment, as desired by the self-named “high ambition coalition” of countries, led by Norway and Rwanda, with limits on plastic production and restrictions on some of the chemicals used in plastics. The coalition is committed to an international, legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution by 2040. It says that this is necessary to protect human health and the environment while helping to restore biodiversity and curb climate change.

Alternatively, the treaty could have a more limited scope to address plastic waste and scale up recycling, as some of the plastic-producing

and oil and gas exporters want. Most plastic is made from fossil fuels. Countries supporting this plan include the United States, Saudi Arabia and China. The U.S. delegation in Uruguay said national plans

would allow governments to prioritize the most important sources and types of plastic pollution. Many plastics and chemical companies want this approach, too, with a plastic waste treaty that prioritizes recycling.

The International Council of Chemical Associations, the World Plastics Council, the American Chemistry Council and other companies that make, use and recycle plastics say they want an agreement that eliminates plastic pollution while “retaining the societal benefits of plastics.” They’re calling themselves the “global partners for plastics circularity.” They say that modern plastic materials are used around the world to create essential and often life-saving products, many of which are critical to a lower-carbon, more sustainable future.

Joshua Baca, vice president of plastics at the American Chemistry Council, said countries are so different “a one-

size fits all approach won’t be effective, equitable, or implementable. Instead, the agreement should require national action plans as that will most effectively eliminate plastic pollution specific to a country’s situation.”

The International Pollutants Elimination Network, or IPEN, wants a treaty that restricts chemicals used to make plastic that are harmful to human health and the environment.

“To focus on plastic waste in this treaty would be a failure because you have to look at plastic production to solve the crisis — including the extraction of fossil fuels and the toxic chemical additives,” said Dr. Tadesse Amara, the network’s co-chair.

IPEN’s international coordinator, Björn Beeler, said countries need to make a plan by the end of this week to write up an initial draft of the treaty text so it can be negotiated at the third meeting.

“If there’s no text to negotiate, you’re just continuing to share ideas,” he said. “Then because of the timeline, we could be looking at an early failure.”

AP

The environmental activist Modou Fall, who many simply call “Plastic Man”, talks to the locals about the pollution caused by plastic bags at the Yarakh Beach littered by trash in Dakar, Senegal, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.



Life & Style

3rd man charged in 2002 shooting death of Run-DMC star

NEW YORK (AP)—A third man has been charged in the 2002 shooting death of Run-DMC star Jam Master Jay, prosecutors said Tuesday, marking the latest movement in a case that languished for years.

Federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York filed a superseding indictment on Tuesday, charging Jay Bryant, 49, in the death of Jason “Jay” Mizell, known professionally as Jam Master Jay.

Two other men, Ronald

Washington and Karl Jordan Jr., had previously been indicted in August 2020 for the death of Jay. The hip-hop trailblazer was shot in the head in his studio on Oct. 30, 2002.

Bryant’s attorney, César de Castro, said in an email that they had just learned of the charges.

“Securing an indictment in a secret grand jury, applying an extremely low burden of proof, is one thing. Proving it at trial is another matter,” he said.

Bryant, from Queens, was in custody already on unrelated federal drug charges.

At the time the other two men were indicted, authorities said Jay’s death involved a drug deal gone bad. In a letter filed with the court on Tuesday, prosecutors said Bryant and the two other men entered the building that evening, and then fled after the shooting. They said Bryant was seen going into the building, and his DNA was recovered at the scene.

Jay was in Run-DMC with Joseph “Run” Simmons and Darryl “DMC” McDaniel in the early 1980s. The group helped bring hip-hop music into the mainstream. Run DMC’s hits include “King of Rock,” “It’s Tricky” and a remake of Aerosmith’s “Walk This Way.”

For years, Jay’s death lingered as a cold case, with witnesses reluctant to speak up despite reward money being offered.



A pedestrian passes a mural of rap pioneer Jam Master Jay of Run-DMC, by artist Art1Airbrush, Aug. 18, 2020, in the Queens borough of New York.

Dudamel in surprise move resigns from the Paris Opéra 2 years into his 6-year contract

By RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gustavo Dudamel announced his resignation as music director of the Paris Opéra on Thursday, a surprise decision two seasons into a six-year contract scheduled to run through the 2026-27 season.

A 42-year-old Venezuelan who lives in Madrid, Dudamel was hired in February by the New York Philharmonic as its music director starting with the 2026-27 season. He has been music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2009, a tenure that will end after 17 seasons when Dudamel starts in New York.

“It is with a heavy heart, and after long consideration, that I announce my resignation as music director of the Paris Opéra in order to spend more time with my family,” Dudamel said in a statement Thursday.

His early exit from Paris at the end of the current season in August could free the conductor for additional engagements in New York, where



Gustavo Dudamel is introduced as the New York Philharmonic’s 27th music and artistic director in New York on Feb. 20, 2023, starting with the 2026-27 season.

Jaap van Zweden leaves after the 2023-24 season, his sixth as music director.

“I have no plans other than to be with my loved ones, to whom I am deeply grateful for helping me to continue to be strong in my resolve to grow and remain challenged, both personally and artistically, each and every day,” Dudamel said.

Dudamel conducted the New York Philharmonic last weekend, for the first time since his appointment was announced, in three performances of Mahler’s Ninth Symphony, and he is not

scheduled with the orchestra next season. He and Philharmonic CEO Deborah Borda participated in extensive planning meetings last week.

“He’s been considering his life very carefully over the past couple of years. Like so many people during the pandemic, he took the time, we all took the time, to evaluate our lives, our goals, our futures, finding just the right balance,” Borda said in a telephone interview. “This is a critical move on really the chessboard of his life as he contemplates his future.”

Art dealer sentenced in Warhol forgery scheme

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP)—A South Florida art dealer was sentenced Tuesday to two years and three months in federal prison in connection with a scheme involving the sale of fake Andy Warhol paintings.

Daniel Elie Bouaziz, 69, was sentenced in Fort Pierce federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in February to a single count of money laundering, while prosecutors agreed to

drop 16 other counts related to fraud and embezzlement. Bouaziz was fined \$15,000, and a restitution hearing is scheduled for Aug. 16.

Prosecutors said Bouaziz, the owner of Danieli Fine Art and Galerie Danieli in Palm Beach County, sold counterfeit artworks to a customer in October 2021 including pieces purportedly by Warhol.

Bouaziz told the customer that the pieces, which he was selling for between \$75,000

and \$240,000, were authentic originals and that some were signed by the artist, investigators said.

Officials said the customer gave Bouaziz a \$200,000 down payment that was deposited into Bouaziz’s account, and then the commingled funds were wired to other accounts.

Warhol was an American visual artist and filmmaker most associated with the pop art movement of the 1960s.

HBO estimates 2.9 million watched ‘Succession’ finale

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO said 2.9 million people watched or streamed the series finale of “Succession” on Sunday night, a series record that is expected to grow as delayed viewing is taken into account.

That beat the first-night record of 2.75 million for an episode that aired on April 30, earlier in the fourth and last season of the family drama about a media company.

The audience can be expected to expand significant-

ly when delayed viewing is taken into account. For example, “Succession” episodes this season have been seen by an average of 8.7 million viewers, according to the Nielsen company.

The series finale provided an answer to the question central to the story, about whether any of media magnate Logan Roy’s children would inherit control over his media empire.

“Succession” didn’t ap-

proach HBO’s record of 19.8 million people who watched the 2019 finale of “Game of Thrones” on its premiere night. HBO estimated that some 46 million people have watched that episode when delayed viewing is taken into account.

HBO said that “Barry,” its series starring Bill Hader, had 700,000 viewers on the night of its finale this past week. Episodes have been average 3.4 million viewers this season.

Off-leash dogs harass petite walker on trail

DEAR ABBY: I live in an area with a large number of dog owners who frequent the same walking trails I do. On several occasions, I have encountered dogs that are off-leash and running ahead of their owners. Sometimes the owner isn’t even in sight.

On several occasions, dogs have jumped up on me, almost knocking me to the ground. I’m in my late 60s, under 5 feet and weigh 105 pounds. I could easily be injured. I was once attacked and bitten.

My question is this: What’s the best thing to say to these dog owners when they finally appear? The last time it happened, the owner happily said to her DOG, “I know you’re excited, but ...” The rest I couldn’t hear because she had already passed me on the trail. Abby, she saw her dog jump up on me and never even acknowledged me. I don’t want to respond angrily or sarcastically, but in a friendly yet firm manner.

WALKER IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WALKER: You are far too nice, lady. Start carrying pepper spray or bear spray when you walk on the trail. If an off-leash dog starts to jump on you, use it. When the owner shows up, say their dog charged you and take their picture. If they give you any trouble, file a police report. When you were bitten, you should have involved the authorities and your attorney.

DEAR ABBY: I’ve been married 33 years. A year ago, my husband started wearing girls’ frilly socks and pink nail polish—the pinker, the better. He thinks it is great. When we go out, he has to show off his nails to everyone. It’s beyond embarrassing. I hate going anywhere with him now, and he’s mad at me for it. Advice? MORTIFIED IN TEXAS

DEAR MORTIFIED: Some performers in the music business wear nail polish, and no one thinks twice about it. (The frilly socks, I’m not so sure.) Could this be your husband’s bid for attention, or a way of announcing that he has a proclivity for cross-dressing? If it’s the latter, please understand that it doesn’t make him any different than the person you have known for the last 33 years.

If you haven’t already talked (calmly) with him about this, do it now. As a regular Dear Abby reader, you may appreciate that on a scale of one to 10, this problem isn’t world-ending. However, such a sudden change in behavior is worth exploring further.

DEAR ABBY: I met a Realtor when I sold my house. He represented the buyer. After the sale, he represented me in a rental property. Then he said he wanted to partner with me in purchasing properties. We also formed what I thought was a relationship.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



After he borrowed \$750 from me and didn’t repay it, and I refused to loan him any more, he ghosted me. Should I take him to small-claims court or chalk it up to a lesson learned?

STILL WAITING IN NEW JERSEY

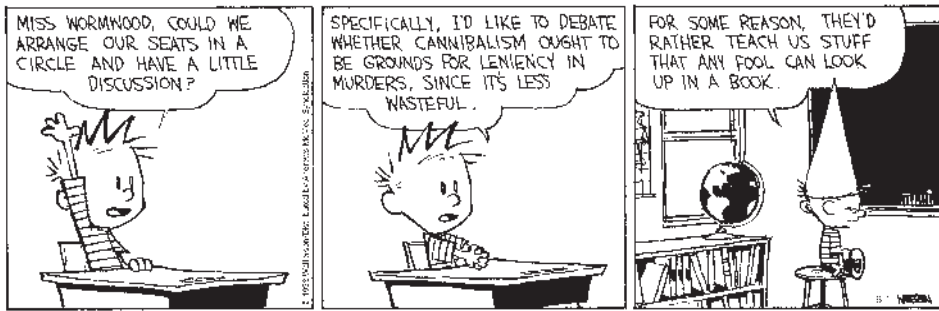
DEAR STILL WAITING: If you have proof that you loaned the Realtor money that he failed to repay, feel free to take him to small-claims court. (It’s certainly worth a try.) And when you are done with that, report him to the ethics committee of the state real estate board.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

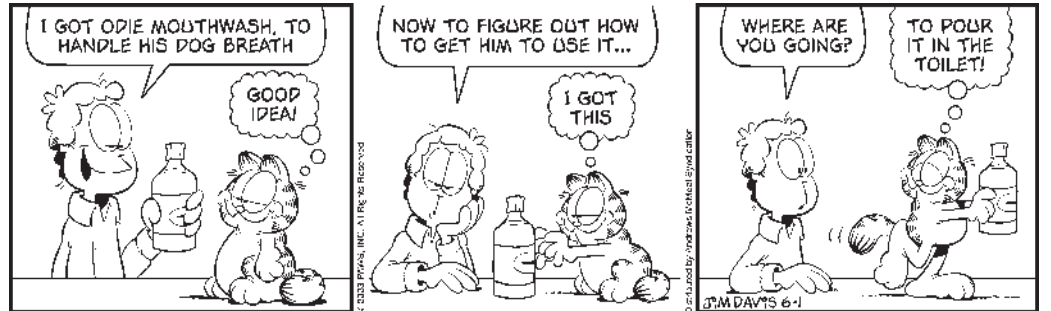
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



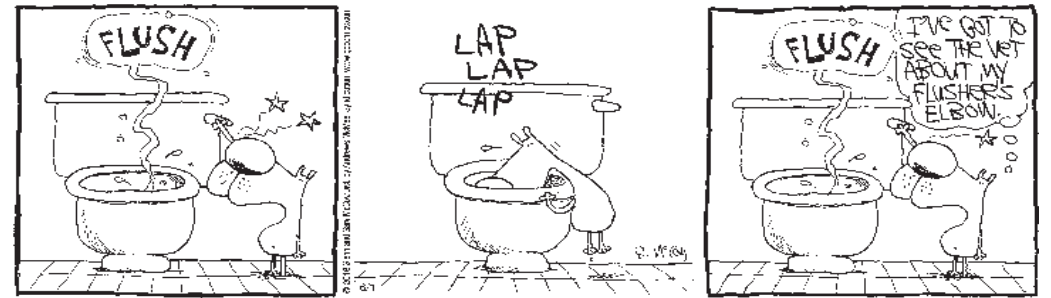
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Thin cut
5 Leg, in slang
8 Use scissors
12 — de gallo
13 Buck-eyes' sch.
14 Conceal
15 Grad
16 Klutz
17 Nobel Prize subj.
18 Total up in- correctly
20 Least confined
22 Prof's aides
23 Away from NNE
24 Corporate symbol
27 Hedge plant
32 Mess up
33 Poem of praise
34 Aussie hopper
35 Leaves base, perhaps

DOWN

38 Revue segment
39 Con-sumed
40 Parcel of land
42 Oscar con-tenders
45 Re-hearsal
49 Magical power
50 Lennon's love
52 Earring site
53 Fan fave
54 "Air" director
55 Western tribe
56 Society newbies

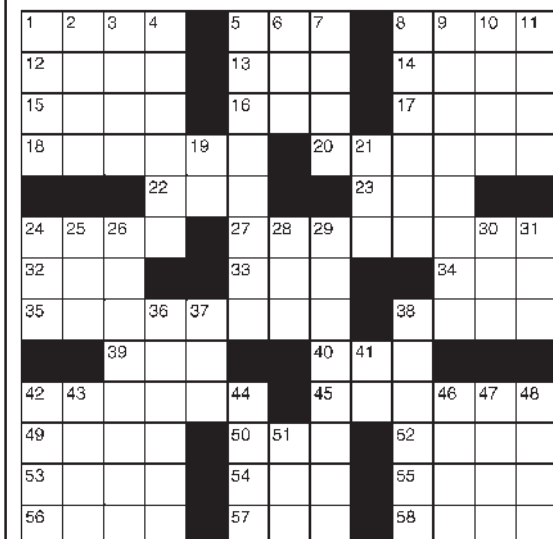
DOWN

1 Unwanted email
2 Actress Taylor
3 Hosp. areas
4 Soup choice
5 "Kudos!"
6 Simile center
7 Ear warmer
8 "Yikes!"
9 "Kudos!"
10 Marriage vows
11 Cooped (up)
19 Opposite of nyet
21 Trio after Q
24 Table support
25 Granada gold
26 "Kudos!"
28 Ruckus
29 "Kudos!"
30 Marseilles monarch
31 "— so fast!"
36 Pub perches
37 — Lingus
38 Phono-graph needle
41 Either mate
42 During
43 Morse —
44 Japanese noodles
46 Indian flatbread
47 Taxi alter-native
48 Loch — monster
51 Up-to-date

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	O	A	R	W	A	R	S	S	T	S
A	N	D	I	A	D	O	H	F	A	T
H	E	A	V	Y	S	E	T	E	T	R
A	I	M	F	D	C	R	A	F	T	S
B	U	S	S	E	I	R	E	R	A	M
O	S	F	O	R	G	A	S	T	V	A
T	O	T	M	O	O	G	T	I	I	A
R	A	C	T	U	T	U				
Y	E	A	R	N	S	A	N	I	M	E
E	S	T	C	T	R	A	I	N	S	E
A	S	E	A	O	K	S	E	L	L	A
H	O	S	S	P	O	P	L	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 6-1



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wil- low Shields, 23; Amy Schumer, 42; Heidi Klum, 50; Morgan Freeman, 86.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the slack, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Refuse to let anyone pile on extra responsibilities if it helps them more than you. Call the shots instead of giving others power over you. Trust in your intelligence and experience, and channel your energy in order to receive the highest returns. A positive attitude and doing your own thing will pay off. Your numbers are 3, 16, 20, 28, 36, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems will surface if you take on too much or overreact to situations involving others. Be a good listener; it will help you decide what to do next. A change at home or to how you look will build confidence. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make decisions that will help you overcome a negative situation. Clearing a path forward will ease tension and stress and encourage you to stop fighting a losing battle and get back to fulfilling your dreams. Romance is encouraged. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put in the time and finish what you start. If you live up to your promises, rewards will be yours. Now is a great time to put your energy and backbone into something that matters. Helping others will pay off and buy you favors. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Set a goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. A social or work-related event will offer a positive shift in attitude. Put your energy into adding to your qualifications

and using your skills diversely. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Reorganize before you add new pastimes to your schedule. Don't follow someone down a path that doesn't interest you. Put your emotions aside and your energy into personal gain and accomplishments. Think outside the box, and you'll come up with reasonable solutions. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Push forward, regardless of your obstacles. Think about the possibilities and take the road less traveled; you will outmaneuver anyone who chooses to get in your way. Personal improvements will attract interest from someone unique. Romance is apparent. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you tidy up loose ends, you'll breathe easy. A new look or adding a few extra touches to whatever you pursue will lead to compliments and concepts that can help you advance. Make home improvements that add to your comfort and convenience. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let anyone get in your way or create discord. Stick to the basics, tell the truth and call out anyone who does otherwise. Stand up for your rights, and you will find a positive way to make a difference. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your money moving. Handle your affairs with precision. Refuse to let anyone interfere in what you are trying to accomplish. Make personal moves for the right reason. Avoid overindulgence and pushy people. Focus on fitness, health and financial success. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The changes you make to your living space will push you to be more productive. A change is as good as a rest. Think about the possibilities and summon the help of those closest to you. Romance is on the rise. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to what everyone is doing before you move. Stick close to home and distance yourself from anyone trying to hold you back. Put your energy into something that will help increase your earning potential. Avoid arguments. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take control, tidy up unfinished business and consider financial changes that would make you feel comfortable about the future. Be imaginative and you'll come up with a new way to entertain yourself. A romantic gesture will enhance your love life and bring promising results. ★★★★★

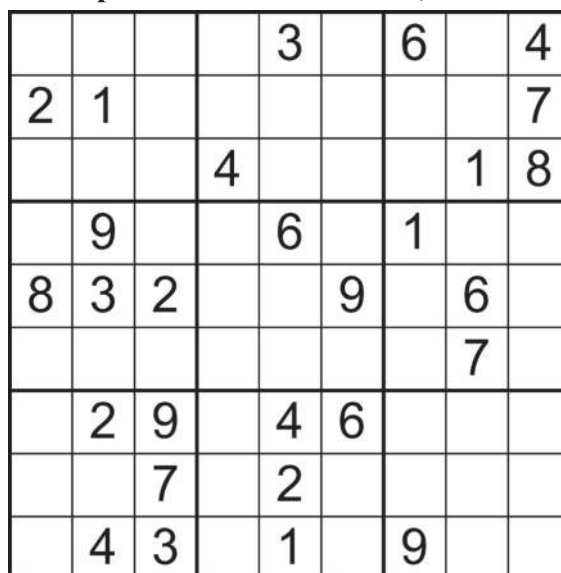
Birthday Baby: You are energetic, passionate and demonstrative. You are generous and resourceful.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

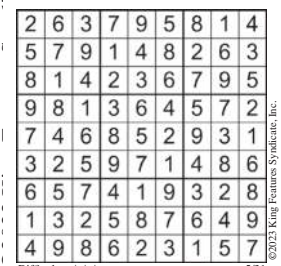
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★

6/1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JELL-O

Solution: 6 letters



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Apricot, Cake, Caramel, Cherry, Chocolate, Dessert, Flan, Free, Fruity, Gelatin, Grape, Green Apple, Ice Cream, Instant, Layers, Lemonade, Light, Lime, Mango, Marshmallow, Milk, Orange, Oreo, Packs, Peach, Pies, Pineapple, Pistachio, Pomegranate, Powder, Pudding, Raspberry, Red Velvet, Rice, Smooth, S'more, Snack, Strawberry, Sweet, Treat

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Cubs bullpen shines, defeats league-leading Rays 2-1



CHICAGO
(AP) —

Nico Hoerner homered and the Chicago Cubs made the most of a rare gaffe by Tampa Bay, handing Shane McClanahan his first loss of the season with a 2-1 victory over the Rays on Tuesday night.

The game was tied at 1 when Ian Happ led off the sixth with a shallow fly ball that dropped between Tampa Bay second baseman Brandon Lowe and right fielder Josh Lowe in a miscommunication between the fielders.

That was enough for Chicago, which topped the majors' best team for the second straight day after entering the series with a four-game losing streak.

Julian Merryweather (1-0), Mark Leiter Jr. and Adbert Alzolay combined for four innings of one-hit ball in relief of Kyle Hendricks. Merryweather earned his first major league win, and Alzolay got six outs for his second save.

McClanahan (8-1) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked two in 5 2/3 innings. The left-hander was bidding to become the first pitcher in franchise history to begin a season 9-0.

RANGERS 10, TIGERS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Reliever Grant Anderson won in an overpowering major league debut and Texas beat Detroit to improve to 35-19, the best record in franchise history at the one-third mark.

Anderson struck out seven of the nine batters he faced after taking over for starter Martín Pérez in the fifth inning. He struck out the first four he faced.

Texas second baseman Marcus Semien extended his hitting streak to a career-best 19 games with a fifth-inning single. Jonah Heim drove in four runs, Josh Jung homered and had three runs and Aroldis Garcia had four hits and three runs.

ORIOLES 8, GUARDIANS 5

BALTIMORE (AP)—Anthony Santander hit a bases-clearing triple during Baltimore's five-run second inning, then added a pair of doubles to lift the Orioles over Cleveland.

Kyle Gibson (7-3) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. Félix Bautista pitched a perfect ninth for his 14th save in 18 chances.

Josh Bell hit an RBI single in the fourth for Cleveland. Santander doubled in the fifth and scored on Henderson's single, which chased Guardians starter Cal Quantrill (2-4).



Chicago Cubs starter Kyle Hendricks delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Tuesday, May 30, 2023, in Chicago.

DODGERS 9, NATIONALS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Freddie Freeman extended his hitting streak to 19 games, capping a four-hit game with an eighth-inning homer, and Los Angeles defeated Washington.

J.D. Martinez homered and drove in three runs, and Jason Heyward also went deep. Tony Gonsolin (3-1) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Los Angeles has won 13 of 14 at Dodger Stadium since late April.

Keibert Ruiz homered and Lane Thomas had two hits to extend his hitting streak to a career-best 15 games for the Nationals. Thomas has reached base in a career-high 26 straight games.

ATHLETICS 2, BRAVES 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Seth Brown scored on a fielding error by Atlanta third baseman Austin Riley in the ninth inning, and Oakland recorded consecutive victories for the second time this season.

Braves reliever Raisel Iglesias (1-2) walked three of the first four Oakland batters in the ninth. Jonah Bride hit a sharp grounder that Riley bobbled. Bride easily beat Riley's throw to first as Brown scored, giving the A's their fifth walk-off win of the season and first back-to-back victories since May 5-6 in Kansas City.

Kevin Pillar hit his sixth homer of the season for the NL East-leading Braves.

Atlanta starter Bryce Elder had five strikeouts and worked around three walks in 7 1/3 innings while lowering his majors-leading ERA to 1.92, among qualifiers.

Shintaro Fujinami (2-5) retired the only batter he faced

on a foul pop-up to the catcher and earned the win.

YANKEES 10, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Aaron Judge homered for the third time in two games, Anthony Volpe and Greg Allen also went deep and New York stretched its winning streak to four.

While Judge hitting another homer will get the headlines, it was Volpe's long ball that broke open the game. With two outs in the third inning, Seattle starter Logan Gilbert (3-3) caught too much of the plate with a 1-2 slider and Volpe drove the pitch 413 feet for a three-run shot and a 6-0 lead. It was Volpe's eighth homer of the season and snapped a 2-for-22 slide for the rookie.

ASTROS 5, TWINS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Alex Bregman and Chas McCormick each homered in the second inning and had two RBIs and Houston built a big lead early.

Bregman and McCormick connected off Joe Ryan (7-2) to put Houston up 3-0 — and snap Ryan's career-long streak of six starts without allowing a homer.

Brandon Bielak (2-2) allowed three hits and one run with six strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings, helping the Astros bounce back after losing the series opener 7-5 in 10 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen pitched six shutout innings, Ketel Marte and Evan Longoria homered in the first inning and Arizona earned its third consecutive win.

Gallen (7-2) gave up five

hits and two walks and struck out seven to win for the first time in three starts and lower his season ERA to 2.72. The right-hander hasn't allowed a homer in 63 innings — dating to his second start of the season.

Nolan Jones hit his first homer of the year in the ninth for Colorado against reliever Kevin Ginkel. Ezequiel Tovar had three of the Rockies' eight hits.

BLUE JAYS 7, BREWERS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Alejandro Kirk each had three hits, Whit Merrifield reached twice and drove in two runs and Toronto snapped a four-game home losing streak.

William Contreras hit a two-run home run, his second homer in two games, as the Brewers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Yusei Kikuchi (6-2) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings, snapping a three-start winless streak. Kikuchi walked a season-high five and struck out four.

Adrian Houser (1-1) came in having pitched 11 1/3 scoreless innings over his previous two outings. He gave up seven runs, six earned, and a career-worst 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

REDS 9, RED SOX 8

BOSTON (AP)—Jose Barreto hit a grand slam to lift Cincinnati to a fourth straight win.

Will Benson had three hits to back Ben Lively (3-2), who pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings. He struck out six for the Reds, who blew it open with a five-run seventh inning.

Raimel Tapia had three of Boston's 14 hits and drove in a pair of runs. The Red Sox lost

their second straight and have dropped six of eight.

Boston scored all eight of its runs in the final three innings, getting five in the ninth but couldn't quite catch the Reds, who clinched the win when reliever Alexis Diaz struck out Triston Casas for the final out and his 13th save.

WHITE SOX 7, ANGELS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Andrew Vaughn drove in three runs, Romy González homered and Chicago beat Los Angeles.

The White Sox looked as if they were headed toward their fourth straight loss after Los Angeles raced to a 3-1 lead against Lucas Giolito (4-4). But the White Sox turned it around in a big way, scoring five runs in the fourth against Tyler Anderson (2-1).

Vaughn smacked a three-run double to put Chicago on top. González drove him in with a double, stole third and scored when Gio Urshela allowed catcher Chad Wallach's throw to wind up in left field, stretching it to 6-3.

Luis Robert Jr. and Jake Burger each had three hits, and the White Sox came out on top despite a shaky start by Giolito. The right-hander lasted five innings, giving up three runs and four hits.

PIRATES 2, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Connor Joe homered against his former team and Pittsburgh snapped a five-game losing streak against the Giants.

Joe, who played for San Francisco in 2019, homered off John Brebbia in the first inning. Michael Conforto tied the game with an RBI single in the bottom of the inning.

Sean Manaea (2-3) allowed one unearned run in four innings of relief.

Pirates starter Johan Oviedo struggled with his command but held the Giants to one run in 4 1/3 innings. He walked five and struck out five.

Dauri Moreta (2-1) relieved Oviedo in the fifth and was credited with the win following a scoreless inning.

David Bednar retired the side in order in the ninth with two strikeouts for his 10th save in 11 chances.

PADRES 9, MARLINS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Xander Bogaerts sparked a five-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking single and Matt Carpenter drove in two runs with his second double of the game, lifting San Diego over Miami.

Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run homer for the Marlins, who came home after a three-game sweep at the Los Angeles Angels.

NL Cy Young Award winner Sandy Alcantara failed to hold a 4-2 lead and is 1-5 in his last nine starts. He allowed four runs, five hits in 6 1/3 innings while walking five, one shy of his career high.

Nick Martinez (3-2) pitched a scoreless eighth around a single and walk, retiring Jorge Soler on an inning-ending double play grounder.

Padres starter Ryan Weathers allowed three runs, seven hits and three walks in four innings.

METS 2, PHILLIES 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Kodai Senga allowed one hit through seven dominant innings and Francisco Lindor homered to help New York shut out Philadelphia in the first meeting this season between the NL East rivals.

Eduardo Escobar added an RBI single and Mets center fielder Brandon Nimmo robbed Nick Castellanos of a potential home run with a leaping catch at the fence.

Senga (5-3) struck out nine and permitted one baserunner — a soft single by Kody Clemens that fell in front of left fielder Tommy Pham in the third.

Adam Ottavino worked a hitless eighth, getting a huge lift when rookie Francisco Alvarez threw out fellow catcher J.T. Realmuto trying to steal second after a leadoff walk.

Philadelphia got 6 2/3 encouraging innings from left-hander Ranger Suárez (0-2), who entered with a 9.82 ERA.

CARDINALS 2, ROYALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Miles Mikolas pitched eight shutout innings, Nolan Arenado hit an RBI double and Nolan Gorman drove in a run with a sacrifice fly as St. Louis split the two-game set between the I-70 rivals.

Mikolas (4-1) matched a career high with 10 strikeouts and allowed three hits. Gionvanny Gallegos replaced Mikolas in the ninth and gave up a double and single to start the inning. Vinnie Pasquantino scored on a fielder's choice by Bobby Witt Jr., cutting the deficit to a run. Gallegos went on to retire the next two hitters and record his seventh save.

The Cardinals got a run in the sixth with two outs against Carlos Hernández (0-2). Paul Goldschmidt reached first on an infield single. Arenado hit a run-scoring double to left-center.

Zack Greinke started for the Royals but didn't figure in the decision. He pitched five scoreless innings, allowing two hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

Nuggets' Malone says beating Heat will be 'biggest challenge of our lives'

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP SPORTS WRITER



Aaron Gordon bristled at the notion the Denver Nuggets must operate the "rust versus rest" seesaw with 10 days between their Western Conference title celebration in Los Angeles and the start of the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat.

Rest?

"We've been working," Gordon declared about 15 hours after the Nuggets finally learned who they'll have to beat to secure the franchise's first Larry O'Brien gold ball trophy. "It's not like we've had our hands back and feet kicked up."

Rust?

"We've been locked in, in the gym, working diligently," Gordon insisted. "So, we feel like we're in a good space. It's been a good balance of work to rest. Happy we have home court advantage."

Miami's 103-84 shellacking of the Celtics in Boston

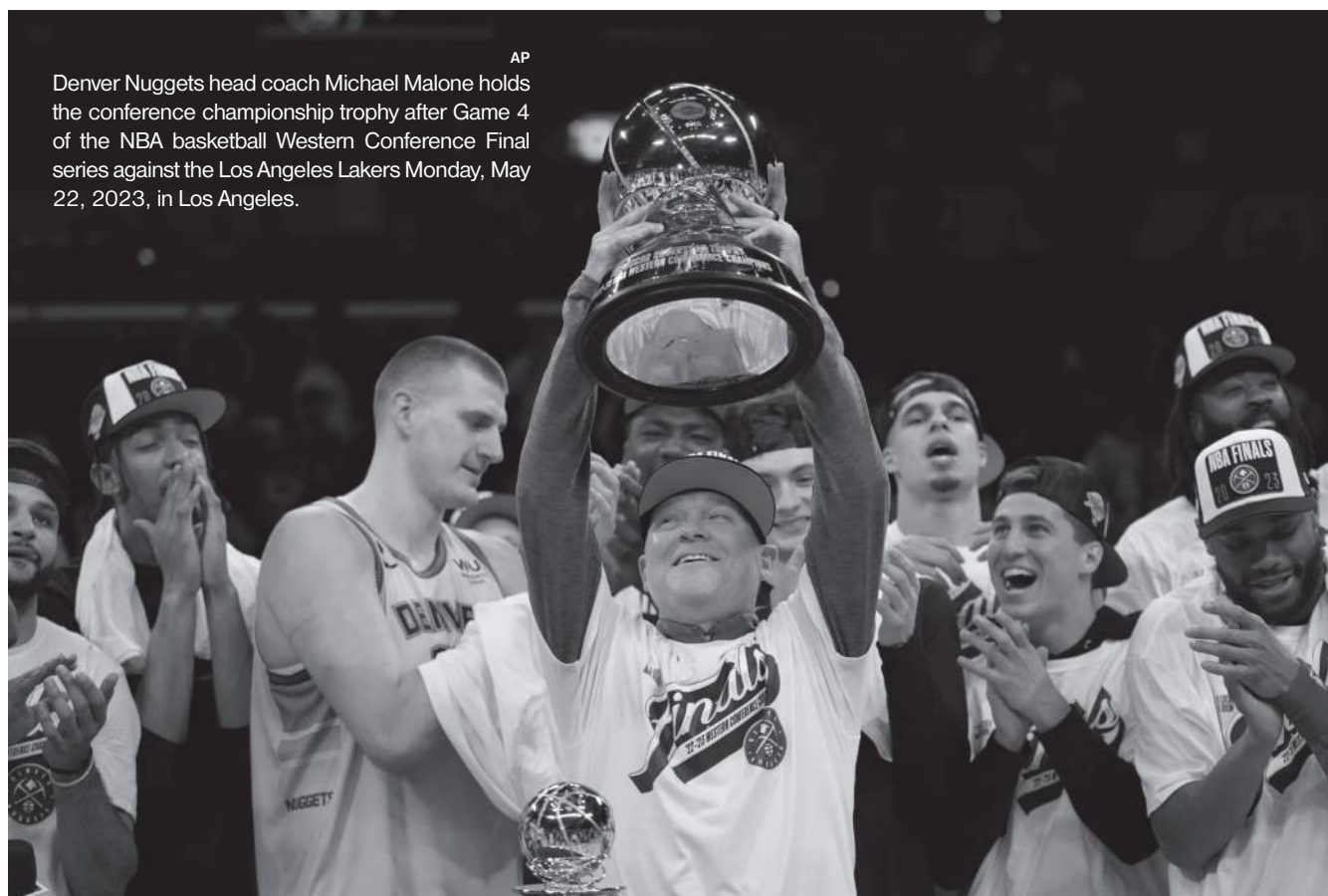
in Game 7 on Monday night sent the Heat to Denver for Game 1 on Thursday night. Had the Celtics been the first of 151 teams to ever overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven basketball series, the Nuggets would have headed East for Games 1 and 2.

Instead, the Nuggets get to stay in the Mile High City, where they've been since returning from their 113-111 win over the Lakers on May 22, and host a Heat team that's been playing every other night and won't have much time to acclimate to the city's mile-high altitude.

So, yes, Gordon acknowledged, he was actually rooting for Jimmy Butler to come to Denver this week, and not because he wanted to avoid Jayson Tatum, either.

"You always want to keep home court," Gordon said. "So, first and foremost what we worked for all season was to get home court advantage."

Top-seeded in the West for the first time in franchise history, the Nuggets have won all eight of their playoff games at Ball Arena, pushing their



league-best home record to 42-7, while going 12-3 overall in these playoffs, including series clinching wins on the road against the Suns and Lakers.

The Heat haven't won in Denver since Nov. 30, 2016, but it's the Nuggets who are novices on this stage.

Miami has been to the Finals many times before, winning it all in 2006, 2012 and 2013.

"We've got the utmost respect for them. They fight and they scrap, they have no quit in them," Gordon said.

The Nuggets are one of six teams who have never won an NBA title. This is their first championship series appearance since losing to Julius Erving and the New York Nets in 1976, after which the

wonderful and wacky ABA was disbanded.

Fanduel Sportsbook favors the Nuggets to win their first NBA championship over the Heat, who are the second No. 8 seed to make it this far. But coach Michael Malone repeated his admonition to his players not to pay attention to all the accolades or outside noise. "Well, as I told our team, forget the eight seed stuff," Malone said. "They beat Milwaukee 4-1. That team had the most wins in the NBA this year. They beat Boston 4-3 and they were up 3-0, the team

with I think the second most wins in the NBA this year."

"So, you get to the NBA Finals, it's not about seeding anymore," added Malone, "and for those who are thinking that this is going to be an easy series, I don't even know what to say to you people."

"This is going to be the biggest challenge of our lives. This is the NBA Finals. We're trying to win the first NBA championship in franchise history, and it's going to be the hardest thing that we've ever done, which is the way it should be."

Future of Brown-Tatum tandem in spotlight as Celtics enter offseason

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics began their season in chaos. They ended it confronted with a decision that could shape the franchise for years to come.

Pain, disbelief and uncertainty hung with the Celtics as they walked off the court following their Eastern Conference finals Game 7 loss to Miami, ending their attempt to return to the NBA Finals.

The matchup with the Heat highlighted all the imperfections of a Boston team that seemingly never recovered after having its season turned on its edge following the suspension of former coach Ime Udoka just days before training camp, when he was given a yearlong suspension for having an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the organization.

"That was an adjustment," Celtics star Jayson Tatum said. "We all figured it out. Obviously, we wanted to win the championship. Didn't happen."

There are the usual questions about the roster heading into the offseason. And other ones, like whether interim-turned full-time coach Joe Mazzulla is the right person to lead the Celtics as they try to capitalize on their championship window. But the most pressing revolves around Boston's two biggest stars in Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

The 24-year-old Tatum is signed for the next two seasons, still under his rookie extension that kicked in last season. He

won't be eligible for a super-max extension until the summer of 2024. It would start in 2025-26 and could be worth more than \$300 million.

Brown, 26, is eligible for a new deal this offseason, and by virtue of making the All-NBA second team this season could be offered as much as a five-year contract extension worth as much as \$295 million.

With the league's new Collective Bargaining Agreement bringing more limitations on how teams construct their rosters and additional luxury tax penalties, it may be a commitment the Celtics aren't willing to make for a duo that hasn't yet brought Boston a title.

During the regular season, Brown averaged career highs in points (26.6), rebounds (6.9) and assists (3.5).

But each of those numbers dipped in the playoffs. And with Tatum reeling from an ankle sprain he sustained on the first play of Game 7, Brown had a disastrous night. He scored 19 points but shot just 8 of 23 from the field with eight turnovers.

It left any thoughts about his future in the immediate aftermath after Monday's loss the furthest thing from his mind.

"We failed. I failed," Brown said. "It's hard to think about anything else right now, to be honest. We'll cross that bridge when we get there."

Asked about his thought process entering this summer, he said that also is foggy at this point.

"I don't even really know how to answer that question right now," Brown said. "My thought process is take it one day at a time, focus on getting better. Focus on what the future holds and see where we are from there."

For his part, Tatum said he'd like to see the front office keep together a tandem that has made it to at least the conference finals in four of its six seasons together.

"It's extremely important," Tatum said. "He's one of the best players in this league. He plays both ends of the ball and still is relatively young. And he's accomplished a lot so far in his career. So, I think it's extremely important."

There was a vote of confidence from the locker room for Mazzulla, who led the team to a 57-win season. But he did struggle in the playoffs to make game plan and in-game adjustments. It contributed to extended series in the first two rounds and Boston's 3-0 deficit in the conference finals.

Tatum said it shouldn't diminish the job he did throughout the season.

"It was his first year. We got to the conference finals Game 7," Tatum said. "We all figured it out. Obviously, we wanted to win the championship. Didn't happen. But I think Joe did a great job. We won 50-some odd games. We got to the Game 7 conference finals. Obviously, everybody can be better, learn from this. But I think Joe did a great job this year."

Stephen Curry wins Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice award

NEW YORK (AP)—Golden State's Stephen Curry was selected as this season's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion, the NBA announced Tuesday.

The league will donate \$100,000 on Curry's behalf to the University of San Francisco Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice. He is the third winner of the award, after Carmelo Anthony in 2021 and Reggie Bullock last year.

Curry's off-court interests related to social justice are many. He's a co-chair of former First Lady Michelle Obama's "When We All Vote" initiative, to help drive voter registration, education and turnout. He participated in the National Basketball Social Justice Coalition's "Freedom to Vote" social media campaign to help advocate for the passage of the Freedom to Vote Act in the U.S. Senate.

And when the Warriors visited the White House this season to meet President Joe Biden and commemorate their 2022 NBA

title, Curry met with the president to discuss issues of community safety.

"As an athlete, I consistently leverage my platform to amplify advocacy and address the pervasive issue of systemic racism," Curry said. "I firmly believe that we must be vocal both on social media and in real life, taking tangible actions to effect real change in our society and for generations to come."

Curry has also worked to support underrepresented groups, championing gender equity in sports, trying to provide opportunity for often-overlooked student-athletes, and committed \$6 million in funding to the men's and women's golf team at Howard University.

And through a nonprofit he founded with his wife Ayesha, Curry has helped provide over 2 million meals and 500,000 books to students in Oakland, California, plus funded more than 1,500 teacher-led classroom literacy projects and remodeled four new playspaces.

The four other finalists — Memphis Grizzlies forward-center Jaren Jackson Jr., San Antonio Spurs guard Tre Jones, Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul and Boston Celtics forward Grant Williams — will each receive \$25,000 donations from the NBA to social justice organizations of their choosing.

The award was created to recognize players who are making strides in the fight for social justice. Each NBA team nominates one player for consideration; from there, five finalists are selected and ultimately one winner is chosen.

Abdul-Jabbar is part of the selection committee, which also includes Director of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport Dr. Richard Lapchick; National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial; UnidosUS President and CEO Janet Murguía; Rise Founder and CEO Amanda Nguyen; and NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum.

15 teams, 60 golfers take part in Wollack Golf Classic



Last Sunday, May 28, the 14th Wollack Golf Classic was held at Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo. There were a total of 15 teams competing and 60 golfers.

The tournament started off really small with just 24 of organizer Dan Wollack's friends playing.

"My golf friends have a varied skill set. As a PE teacher at Marianas High School I am always coming up with rules during sports to even the playing field for people of all ability levels. Some rules changes for the WGC include letting people tee off from different tee boxes based on handicap, awarding free mulligans depending on handicap, and letting high handicap golfers have an allotted



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team "Back Nines Matter" consisting, from left, John Favreaux, Ben Rayphand, Felix Rabauliman, and Amier Younis topped the 14th Wollack Golf Classic held last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

amount of 'bocce shots' where they can throw the ball rather than hit it," said Wollack.

Over the years the tournament has continued to grow

and sponsors started getting involved. Over the past four WGC's Wollack has been able to make it a fundraiser. This year all the proceeds went to Saipan

of Saipan for quite a while, so we're happy to have all the boys back and it's always good to win."

On Schmidt's injury and staying in the game to continue playing, "nobody can tell him not to play. Injured or not, he'll be on the floor."

Basa said that their sponsor, Martech will sponsor them again the next Michelob Ultra Cup season and they look forward to defending their title. "It was a great tournament all around. Big shout out to MarPac for bringing basketball back to the CNMI. My huge thank you to all the volunteers to help put this together. Without the volunteers, sports in the CNMI will be difficult so we thank all of them for their time."

James Lee, who wore many hats for the league—coach for Team Marianas, sales manager at MarPac, and president of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation—said that the league turned out great.

"This is our Michelob Ultra men's league in a while and it was a great turnout. I definitely know we can do a lot better, so we look forward to next year," he said. As for

the teams that participated, "it really started out with a lot of excitement... And I think now they know what to expect playing indoors, with air con, and having fans... What I was hoping for is kind of leveling up on every aspect—not only as athletes, where they need to be coaching wise, what they need to do, and also the expectations of what the fans need. So I think overall we've accomplished that so far."

The Uncle Paul Shimizu MVP Award went to Team Marianas' Eli Garcia who received an MVP trophy, \$200 cash, a case of Michelob Ultra, a Michelob Ultra cooler, a Michelob Ultra Yeti flask, and other Michelob Ultra gear—which went to an adult because he is under 21 years old.

Martech Ol'Aces 91 – Schmidt 22, Airson Atan 20, Lizama 13, Brungard 11, Aiferson Atan 7, Kabiriel 4, Pelisamen 4, Barcinas 4, Libuw 2, Basa 2.

Team Marianas 56 – C. Santos 24, Villarin 13, K. Santos 6, G. Sablan 5, Richardson 5, Raquepo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 53-30; 70-43, 91-56.

second was MOC I with 21:33:48; third was SPC B with 22:26:50; and fourth was MOC II with 22:43:04.

For the V1 open women race, MOC's Pipit Ball claimed first with a time of 26:13:47; second was MPP's Marianas Ornes at 29:03:15; and SPC's Erryne Dasalla did not finish.

The open men's V1 was dominated by SPC's Carter Calma with a time of 22:44:63; not far behind was MOC's Maverick Itibus at 22:56:98; third was MOC's Jason Tarkong at 24:15:69; fourth was SPC's Joe Weaver at 24:21:57; fifth was MOC's

Richard Sikkell at 24:48:33; and sixth was SPC's Justin Andrew at 26:06:83.

In the junior 19 girls V1 race, SPC's Vinalyn Oronigo was the lone paddler and finished at 28:27:01. SPC's Grace Mendiola did not race. The junior 19 boys V1's lone participant was SPC's Tyler Andrew who finished at 24:11:83.

Justin Andrew said of this series, "This slalom series is a way to allow everyone an opportunity to get in the canoe and paddle as a team and to feel and gauge what other teams have—fine-tuning even more from past months of training together as a team."

Humane Society.

The winning team was "Back Nines Matter" consisting of Amier Younis, Felix Rabauliman, John Favreaux, and Ben Rayphand who shot an even 72. Along with their cash prize they got their names put on the perpetual WGC trophy.

In second place was "Fore Dads" consisting of James

Glenn, Ajani Burrell, Tom Linden, and C.J. Jensen with a score of 74.

In third place was team "Run-away Birdies" consisting of Dominic Kieffer, Rocky Anderson, Jorgina Lopez, and Jeremy Rother with a score of 74.67.

The tournament raised just over \$1,500 for the Saipan Humane Society.

"I really want to thank our incredible sponsors. The sponsors are the main reason we are able to fundraise so much money for the Humane Society. Marpac Distributors generously donated drinks for the awards ceremony and merchandise for the raffle. Other sponsors who donated to the raffle included: Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, Joeten Motors, The Hut, Skydive Saipan, and McDonald's Saipan and Guam," said Wollack. (PR)

Volunteer fishermen wanted for June 3 Mini-Derby



Youth fishing nonprofit Tasi To Table will be holding its TTT Student Mini-Derby this Saturday, June 3, from 6am to noon at the Smiling Cove Marina.

TTT is also in search of fishermen willing to participate in the Mini-Derby and volunteer their time, knowledge, and resources to TTT's student members. Fishermen will receive a gas stipend of \$25 per student they can safely accommodate on their boat. Those interested can call the TTT office at (670) 234-8274 or send an email to tasiortable@gmail.com.

Gene Weaver, who is president of Tasi To Table, shared that close to 40 students will be taking part in this year's Mini-Derby and that 10 boats have committed to taking part in this year's Mini-Derby.

"The Student Mini-Derby is TTT's signature year-end event for our students. We greatly thank the fishermen who have committed to be part of this event this year and in past years. To the students, we encourage you to learn as much as you can from your boat captains," he said.

The TTT Student Mini-Derby is an event held at the end of every school year for TTT's

second-year students. The students are taken out to the water by volunteering boat captains to experience the fishing method of trolling. TTT expresses its deepest appreciation to the boat captains who support the youth and give their time to the students.

Last year, *Carmelita II* won the Tasi to Table Student Mini-Derby after catching a 28.4-lb wahoo in the waters off Saipan.

A total of 11 boats and 27 Saipan students participated in the derby, with captain Chief Justice Alexandro Castro of the *Carmelita II* leading the pack with the heaviest catch of the derby. (PR)

BRACE

From Page 20

top seed Sung Shuo Yun and No. 3 Lin Hsiang Ti, while Korea's Sim Yu Jin and Canada's Wen Yu Zhang are seeded No. 2 and 4, respectively. All four are in the Top 50 rankings in the world. Another player to keep an eye on in the women's singles is Oceania 2023 champion Tiffany Ho of Chinese-Taipei.

In the doubles, Chinese-Taipei players are the early favorites, too with Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei seeded first and looking to add another championship to their collection. The world No. 33 duo won the Victor North Harbour International 2022 and Bendigo International 2022 held in New Zealand. One of their toughest competitors are twins and world No. 41 Fang-Chih Lee and Fang-Jen Lee, also from Chinese-Taipei, and the pair came from an upset win over

world No. 17 Ben Lane and Sean Vandy of England in the opening round of last week's Perodua Malaysia Masters.

Chinese-Taipei has the most number of entries, having more than 60 players each in the Northern Marianas Open and Saipan International, while Japan and South Korea are also sending a big delegation. Malaysia, India, Egypt, Guam, Hungary, Belgium, Singapore, India, New Zealand, Vietnam, Thailand, Finland, United States, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, and the NMI are also represented in the double-header, which will award points to players that are aiming to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games next summer.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino, meanwhile, said that member-federations and officials of Badminton World Federation and Badminton Oceania have been talking about the quality of players that have confirmed their participation in the NMI-

hosted tournaments.

"This will be a great treat to people in the NMI who are used to watching top-level badminton games online, but now will get to see exciting games live and witness the kind of matches played at a very high standard," Tolentino said.

Matches schedule

This Tuesday's qualifying round games will run from 3pm to 4pm, while main draw games will follow suit and take place until 9pm. Day 2 (June 7) action will be from 10am to 9pm; Day 3 (June 8) is from 12pm to 9pm; and Day 4 (June 9) is from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on June 10 will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 11, from 12pm to 5pm. The same schedule will be in effect for the Saipan International 2023. (PR)

VA'A

From Page 20

ange with 25:04:31; and fifth was MPP Blue with 25:41:17.

In the second V6 race after, MOC Black retained first place in the women's division, while SPC A claimed first in the men's division.

MOC Black came in first with a time of 24:02:68l second was MOC Orange with 24:41:01; third was 24:59:87; fourth was MPP Orange with 26:22:04; and MPP Blue did not race.

SPC A men's team came in first with a time of 21:18:24;

The turnout of the first race of the series was great, according to Andrew, even though some paddlers had prior family commitments as it was around the same time as graduations and other events.

About the race, Andrew said it was "just what we needed after a long dry season for us here—we have not had a local race done since the pandemic and that race was just what we all needed to get started. The race format was short, about 2 miles, with a triangular course that was still within sight and allowed all to see and cheer our pad-

dlers on from shore."

As for the next race, Andrew said he is looking forward to having more paddlers come out in the V1 team category and the V1 category.

"We decided to include the single person and by age groups of open women, open men, junior 19 boys, junior 19 girls, junior 16 boys, junior 16 girls. The junior age group is to give opportunity to our youth paddlers to showcase their skills on the single-man rudderless canoes—this craft is gaining popularity among paddlers outside of the Polynesian region and we wanted to allow the junior to race

against their junior peers and not the adults. We hope to see more single man canoe paddlers come out."

As thanks, he said "special thanks to all clubs and teams that came out to race, and also special thanks to Napu Outrigger Canoe Club and Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club for their help with canoes to use. Lastly, special thanks to Rica Concepcion and Teresa Borja for manning the official station.

The second preliminary race day is scheduled for this Saturday, June 3, with the finals set for June 17 both from 8am to 12pm.



Cubs bullpen shines, defeats league-leading Rays 2-1.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

15 teams, 60 golfers take part in Wollack Golf Classic.
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Martech-Ol'Aces claims 1st 'Mich' Cup

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Martech-Ol'Aces defeated Team Marianas in the winner-take-all championship game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

From 12 teams to the final two, Martech Ol'Aces and Team Marianas were the top-tier teams of the league with the mighty Martech-Ol'Aces showing Team Marianas who's the top dog with a 92-56 blowout victory.

The game did not start off without a hitch as a few minutes into the first quarter, an accident occurred as Team Marianas' Coby Santos and Martech-Ol'Aces' Douglas "Spider" Schmidt collided when they both went after the ball and Schmidt's forehead split open.



LEIGH GASES
Martech-Ol'Aces claimed the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League championship after defeating Team Marianas last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES
Team Marianas' Eli Garcia, center, is the recipient of the Uncle Paul Shimizu MVP Award of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League season.

The show must go on as Schmidt stayed in the game after they patched his head and went on to score the most points for his team with 22.

The game was a nailbiter in the first quarter as Santos bursted into the scene with 11 markers and trailed Ol'Aces by just 2 points, 23-21.

Team Marianas' offense fell apart simultaneously as Ol'Aces' defense tightened, with Ol'Aces limiting Team Marianas to just 9 points. Ol'Aces' Riley Brungard went deep twice, with Aiferson Atan chipping in one as well as they pulled away from Team Mari-

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Va'a season kicks off with V6, V1 Slalom Race series



LEIGH GASES
MOC I men's team comes in first place ahead of SPC A during the first V6 team preliminary race of the NMNPSF V6/V1 Slalom Race series last May 20 at the Kilili Beach in Susupe.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation began their 2023 season last May 20 as V1 and V6 paddlers took to Kilili Beach in Susupe for a three-part Va'a Slalom Race series.

NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said that they wanted to kick off their 2023 season

with this race series since the first part of their season is distance racing and also because they wanted to get the local races started as part of the overall preparations for the Pacific Games in November. They are also slated to take part in the 23rd Micronesia Cup paddling competition this October in Guam.

Marianas Outrigger Club men and women churned the water the fastest in the V6 2-mile race, which was the

first race of the day.

MOC I in the open men's division clocked in at 19:30:88; second was Saipan Paddling Club A at 19:37:74; third was SPC B at 20:27:07; and fourth was MOC II with 20:34:28.

In the open women's division, MOC Black clocked in first with a time of 22:46:69; second was SPC Women at 23:31:09; third was MOC Orange at 24:35:49; fourth was Marianas Pacific Paddlers Or-

See VA'A on Page 19

Brace for high-level badminton games



Expect high-level badminton matches at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, as a former world No. 1 player has joined the roster of participants in the back-to-back 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifying tournaments that the NMI will be hosting starting this Tuesday, June 6.

South Korea's Son Wan Ho, who in 2017 was ranked No. 1 in the world, will be one of the players to watch, as the organizing Northern Marianas Badminton Association holds the Northern Marianas

Open 2023 and the Saipan International 2023. The first leg of the pair of 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifiers will run until June 11, while the last one will take place from June 13 to 18, with Ho entered in the men's singles and is anticipated to collide with fellow Olympian and tournament top seed Kevin Cordon of Guatemala in the third round of the main draw. Son, who is currently ranked No. 155 in the world, represented South Korea in the 2012 London Olympics and 2016 Brazil Olympics before his ascension to the top of the world rankings.

Also favored to figure in the battle for the coveted men's singles crown are Japan's Yushi Tanaka and Jack Yu of Australia. The Japanese player ruled the VICTOR North Harbour International 2022 in October and had his most recent success in April after topping the Osaka International Challenge 2023. Yu, on the other hand, is a qualifier at the TOTAL Energies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals held in China last month.

In the women's singles, Chinese-Taipei has two out of the Top 4 seeded players in the main draw. They are

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BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION
South Korea's Son Wan Ho competes in the men's singles draw at the Macau Open 2019.